Hafa Adai!

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Gonzales leads names on delegate ballot, Atalig last. **PAGE 3**

19.6 MW for entire Saipan

Only one engine running at Power Plant 1

19 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plants were producing less than 20 megawatts of power yesterday for the island, with only one engine operational at Power Plant 1.

See 19.6 MW on Page 4

DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soldiers of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry, which include those from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are in formation at the Aloha Stadium in Hawaii during a recent deployment ceremony. The soldiers were deployed starting this week to Fort Hood, between Austin and Waco in Texas. They will be there for two months of training before deploying to Kuwait in late October for 12 months.

FBI to boost its presence in NMI

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is poised to boost its presence in the CNMI with the addition of new agents to its local office, an FBI spokesman confirmed

See FBI on Page 4

Shell prices drop again

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Shell gasoline stations in the CNMI have lowered prices for the fourth time in recent weeks despite a minor increase this week in oil prices linked to fears over the impact of tropical storms on energy platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

SHELL PRICES

REGULAR *	
Self Service	$4.48
Full Service	$4.61
Diesel	$5.35

*figures based on previous price

See SHELL on Page 4

SOLEDAD TENORIO:
The matriarch of the Joeten empire

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastia@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Soledad Takai Tenorio, who served as a nurse during World War II and later rose to become the woman behind the scenes of one of the island's most prominent local businesses, died Saturday at 81.

Born on Saipan in 1926, Tenorio, known popularly as Daidai, attended Japanese schools in her childhood during the occupation and worked on a family farm, harvesting coffee and cotton. As a young woman, she served as a nurse on the island, a role she kept after the outbreak of World War II, going on to care for the sick and dying at a U.S. Army hospital.

Daidai later married Jose Camacho

See SOLEDAD on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Clinton Hurrah
Hillary Clinton summoned the millions of voters who support her to send Barack Obama to the White House.

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Celeb Endorser
Celebrities are getting serious at the Democratic convention.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Local

ON LITIGATION AGAINST FEDERALIZATION LAW

'Dialogue rather than expensive but uncertain lawsuit'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth should engage the federal government in a dialogue instead of pursuing an expensive but uncertain lawsuit against the federalization law, according to Rep. Diego T. Benavente yesterday.

"We don't have the money to spend on this," said Benavente, referring to the administration's planned lawsuit that, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special legal counsel, Howard Willens, would cost $50,000 monthly or about $400,000 covering an eight-month period.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the former lieutenant governor cited options such as calling for the 902 talks to convene or having the administration and Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio talk with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security people who are putting the proposed federalization regulations together.

"We knock on their doors and come in and present our views," said Benavente, who is chairman of the House's Committee on U.S. and Foreign Relations.

Benavente said that when they visited Washington D.C. a couple of weeks ago, officials at the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, and members and staffers of U.S. Congress pointed out to them that this is an opportunity for the CNMI "to knock on the door" every other week or every month and present the issues that the Commonwealth is concerned with.

"In my opinion, this would be much cheaper than filing a lawsuit," he said.

Benavente pointed out that even though the outcome of a regular visit to Homeland Security is not certain, the lawsuit is not certain as well.

"In the meantime, we are spending money that we don't have," the lawmaker stressed.

He said that, based on what he heard of Willens' presentation, there are other options other than a lawsuit.

In yesterday's House's session, Benavente suggested inviting other person who can argue the other side and might be able to present to the House a different picture—rather than spending over half a million dollars in taxpayers' money.

"There's got to be a cheaper way to resolve this if there are some real concerns as raised by Mr. Willens. But I agree that there was a propaganda, there was an intent not to tell the whole picture," he added.

On behalf of the Fitial administration, Willens conducted a closed-door presentation on Tuesday in the House's chamber, where he tried to convince the Legislature to provide funding of about $400,000 that he said the administration will need to pursue the lawsuit.

After the presentation, Willens told *Saipan Tribune* that Fitial is interested in pursuing litigation to protect the Commonwealth's right to self-government under the Covenant.

He said the governor wants to consult with the Legislature before he makes the final decision.

CUC now allowed to hire alien workers

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved yesterday a bill that would allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire 19 alien workers to address the severe manpower shortage at CUC's power distribution division.

Fitial informed Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios that he has signed House Bill 16-142 into law. It goes to the books as Public Law 16-14.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said Fitial knows how important the measure is to CUC's power plants in Lower Base.

"We need skilled foreign workers to help CUC repair and maintain the engines," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Fitial's signing of the bill was expected as the governor had earlier urged the Legislature to support amending existing law to allow such hiring of alien workers.

The Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council had also adopted a resolution urging Fitial to exercise his powers to hire guest workers for CUC to ensure the consistent delivery of power, water, and wastewater services to island residents.

The bill was introduced by Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

The new law would allow CUC to hire 12 nonresident workers and renew the contracts of seven others who are currently employed at the utility agency. CUC has until 2010 to keep these workers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

KRISTI EATON

U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Nancy Montanez Johner, center in black top, is surrounded by WIC and USDA officials as they stand outside the new Women, Infants and Children building yesterday.

USDA officials tour new WIC building

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture were on island yesterday to learn about the CNMI's nutrition assistance programs.

Nancy Montanez Johner, Undersecretary for the USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences program, and Allen Ng, Food and Nutrition Service's Western Region administrator, met with officials from different agencies and toured the new Women, Infants and Children's building that is currently under construction on Navy Hill.

"I think it's great they're moving out here on their own," Johner said while touring the building.

The WIC clinic is currently housed at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Johner, who was appointed to her position by President Bush, said she is especially pleased with the individualized nutrition plans that are available at WIC.

Johner and Ng were expected to meet with Gov. Benigno Fitial, Melvin Faisao, acting Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and other officials from local organizations.

During the building tour, WIC Program Director Josephine

See USDA on Page 4

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Gonzales leads names on ballot, Atalig last

Gonzales

Won

Cing

Lizama

Tenorio

Crisostimo

Davis

Sablan

Atalig

The other candidates who personally participated in the drawing were Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, former senator David Cing, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, businessman Chong Won, and former Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan.

Based on the results, Won will be number 2; Cing, number 3; Lizama, number 4; Tenorio, number 5; Crisostimo, number 6; Davis, number 7; Sablan, number 8; and Atalig, number 9.

Acting executive director Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that the candidates, who

See GONZALES on Next Page

House OKs bill to reserve Tinian land for agri homesteads, commercial uses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House passed a Senate bill yesterday that proposes to reserve a total of 524 hectares of public land on Tinian for agricultural homesteads and commercial uses.

With a 13-2 House's votes, Senate Bill 16-37 will go to the governor for approval. Only Reps. Christina Sablan and Edward Salas opposed the passage of the bill.

Sens. Joseph M. Mendiola, Luis P. Crisostimo, and Felix T. Mendiola introduced the bill.

The legislation seeks to reserve 140 hectares of the Chalan Famalao'an for commercial and other purposes—as determined and approved jointly by the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation. The remaining 40 hectares of the area will be reserved for agricultural or residential homestead lots.

The bill also proposes to designate as a reserved area the Pina area containing 384 hectares, for agricultural homestead lots.

The authors of the legislation state that many Tinian residents have been waiting for a long time for agricultural homestead lots as there have not been adequate parcels of land to meet such need.

The senators said there is a need to reserve certain areas for commercial use due to the limited amount of public lands available on Tinian and the need to have resources available for future economic investment opportunities.

In opposing the bill, Rep. Sablan said the legislation should be referred to the natural resources committee for further study.

"We must do our due diligence to make sure we are managing public lands properly," Sablan argued.

She said there is a need to first determine whether there is an environmental issue in that land or whether there is a conflict of zoning law and other possible issues.

Majority of the lawmakers, however, agreed to respect the leaders of Tinian who "know best what their people need for their island."

Rep. Oscar Babauta first opposed the legislation, saying he does not see the rationale for it. In the absence of data, he said he is not convinced the bill is necessary.

After other lawmakers explained their support for the legislation, Babauta said he would give the Tinian leadership the benefit of the doubt and that he "rests his case."

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Television talk show John Oliver Gonzales will be placed number one on the ballot, while Saipan Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig, the last to file his candidacy, will also take the last slot in the placement of names.

Gonzales was not around when his name was picked up during yesterday's drawing for the slots held at the Commonwealth Election Commission on Capital Hill.

Election Commission acting executive director Julita Villagomez, who drew for Gonzales, picked the number one slot. Gonzales is off-island.

Aside from Gonzales, those who failed to attend the drawing were Atalig, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, and Vietnam War veteran John Davis. Crisostimo and Davis, however, sent their respective representatives.

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'Gracious' House session turns tense

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives began work yesterday with the words "gracious day" but tension occurred near the end of the proceedings when a lawmaker banged the table with his fist during deliberation with his colleagues.

The session got underway with Speaker Arnold Palacios beaming as some lawmakers kept using the word "gracious" during the start of the session.

Palacios also used the word "gracious" and Rep. Christina Sablan joined in, using the word when requesting to be heard.

This prompted Rep. Victor Hocog, with his big voice, to declare, "Today is a gracious day!" drawing laughter from lawmakers and some people in the chamber.

Serious deliberation, however, followed, focusing on a House bill that would require appointees to the Medical Professional Licensing Board to be confirmed by the Senate.

Rep. Sablan asked for a short recess. While Speaker Palacios was asking her how much time she needs, Rep. Hocog asked for the privilege to speak. Hocog, the principal author of the bill, begged that he be allowed to say his piece before the power goes off.

"I guess the bill is self-explanatory, Mr. Speaker, and to move for another amendment…" said Hocog, who failed to finish his sentence when Rep. Sablan raised a question to Palacios.

At this, Hocog banged his fist on the table. "Congresswoman! Please…I'm speaking and I asked privilege to the speaker and she's speaking while I'm talking," the Rota lawmaker said.

Sablan quickly replied that she certainly has the right to privilege, too.

"Now you have to ask permission before you talk!" Hocog said.

Sablan replied, "Point of order!"

By then, no one was mentioning "gracious" anymore.

At that point, Speaker Palacios intervened. He asked the members to be very, very patient in order to have an orderly session. Palacios reminded the members to be recognized first by raising a hand before stating their piece.

Hocog then moved to end debate on the issue. Majority seconded the motion.

Hocog's bill was approved. Only Sablan objected to it.

Palacios said that sometimes lawmakers tend to become very, very passionate with their position, but that he wants to have an orderly session.

The smiling Palacios then asked Floor Leader Joseph James Camacho to call for a not-so-controversial issue. Camacho obliged, segueing to a bill on veterinarian liabilities.

Japanese students to promote Rota at JATA fair

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Ten students from Waseda University in Japan recently toured the island of Rota as part of their upcoming presentation for the Japan Travel Association World Tourism Congress and Travel Fair.

The Fair will be held on Sept. 18-20 at the Tokyo Big Sight (International Center) where the Waseda students will present what they have gathered during their tour on Rota.

A Rota booth will be put up during the fair to promote the island as a tourist destination area.

While on Rota, the students photographed various facilities and tourist spots.

They also stayed at the homes of local residents, visited tourist spots, and experienced snorkeling in the pristine waters of Rota and the local fiesta night with cultural dinner show.

The tour was the first activity of the Waseda University students. It was in line with the development of Rota charter flights.

The students took the Rota charter flight as it was recommended to them by Waseda alumnus Yoshinori Ochi, Senior Managing Director of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. (KNT) of Japan. Ochi's company will provide the Rota booth for the students at the JATA fair.

The students arrived on Rota Aug. 20 for their three-day tour.

They stayed at the Rota Resort and Country Club, spent the rest of the day sightseeing around the island, had a barbecue for lunch at Teteto beach, inspected Rota Hotel and Coconut Village and had a courtesy call at government offices as well as a meeting with the host family at their hotel.

On their second day, the students were hosted to a breakfast at the host family's house, followed by tours in the community where they had the chance to experience the local culture and custom.

They also met the staff of the Rota charter project as well as joined the local people in a summer night fiesta.

For an assignment, the students were grouped into two and assigned to do hotel chores like attending to hotel guests or setting up a venue for a night party.

Tan Holdings Corp. also hosted lunch for the interns, who were accompanied by their professor, Fumiaki Miyashita.

The student interns were Takahiro Meguro, Yuhei Morii, Umpei Okamura, Tomoaki Fujii, Takahiko Nakamura, Kosuke Tanaka, Tomoyo Kasai, Saori Komiya, Nayo Morita and Moe Murakami, all 20-year-old third year college students.

On Rota, the students were met by Cristin Ayuyu, the Rota Mayor's representative as the mayor was off island and not available. They were given a welcome party at the Mayor's office too. They also met Edward Maratitia, MVA Rota board member as well as Yoichi Matsumura, MVA board member.

SHELL

From Page 1

In a statement Wednesday, Shell of Guam president Eloy Lizama said prices at local stations for unleaded gas would drop by 10 cents per gallon beginning last night, while diesel prices would drop by 15 cents per gallon.

"From our most recent price reduction on August 16th, we continued to see a decline in Shell's cost of regular unleaded and diesel fuel products," Lizama said. "Shell will pass these savings onto our customers and lower the price for Shell Regular Unleaded and Shell Diesel."

The price change brings the cost of regular, self-serve gas to $4.48 per gallon at Shell stations. Full service regular gas falls to $4.61 per gallon. Diesel prices drop to $5.35 per gallon.

Shell's statement did not say whether prices for premium gas, $4.75, would change.

The price drop had yet to take effect at Shell stations as of press time.

Shell's price dip comes as global oil prices on Wednesday spiked slightly to $117 per barrel amid fears that a tropical storm in the Gulf of Mexico will damage oil operations there. This price pales in comparison, however, with the record $147 high seen earlier this summer.

The CNMI's gas prices remain far higher than those on the United States mainland, according to data from AAA. The national average price for a gallon of regular gas now stands at $3.66 per gallon, for example, down 29 cents below the average one month ago.

GONZALES

From Page 3

came with some of their supporters and committee officials, arrived on time at the 9am scheduled drawing.

Villagomez said there was a power outage at the time but the raffle went smoothly and was done in 10 minutes.

Villagomez reminded people that voter registration is still ongoing. Deadline for registration at the Election Commission is Sept. 15 at 4:30pm.

The Election Commission, through registrar Frank Camacho, has also been conducting registrations at Price Costco every Saturday since June 2008. The deadline at Price Costco is on Sept. 13 at 3pm.

Election Commission records show that as of Aug. 1, 2008, there were 9,916 registered voters on Saipan; 1,104 on Tinian; and 1,347 on Rota, or for a total of 12,367.

During last November 2007 election, there were close to 15,000 registered voters in the CNMI.

USDA

From Page 2

Tudela said she expects to transfer 2,900 records to the Arizona in Motion program on Oct. 14. WIC is switching to AIM in an effort to expedite their record keeping. Staff members from WIC traveled to Arizona to learn about the program, and Arizona representatives are expected to visit Saipan soon.

Johner and Ng are scheduled to travel to Guam and meet with the governor and other health officials today.

SOLEDAD

From Page 1

Tenorio, also known as Joeten, in 1946, the entrepreneur behind Joeten Enterprises, which now has arms in retail sales, real estate, car sales and insurance. The two worked side by side.

Before the Joeten name became a household one on Saipan, however, the company began with a small retail store in Chalan Kanoa that most locals knew at the time as the "Daidai store," according to Bishop Tomas Camacho, who said Soledad was instrumental in the early beginnings of the Joeten business empire.

"Daidai, everybody here would say she was the brain and the push for the business," Camacho said in an interview Wednesday.

Son Norman remembered his mother taking the reins at the shop when his father was away, working tirelessly as the shop's accountant while also raising a family.

"She was a tough lady," he said. "She was basically the accountant for the business and at the same time she had to take care of us kids. She worked long hours."

Daidai, he added, remained active in the business even long after her retirement and her husband's death in 1993, coming to the company's stores regularly to inspect them and ensure they lived up to her family's legacy.

Daidai was a loving yet firm influence in her children's lives, the family said in a statement, often inspecting their report cards and encouraging them to learn.

"Daidai embodied all that is beautiful and good about our family," son Clarence T. Tenorio, said. "She inspired her children with graceful strength, unwavering commitment to family and keen concern for her community that she so dearly loves."

A devout Catholic, Daidai became a major donor to the local church, providing funds for the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall and Diocesan Curia building, which prompted the Vatican to name her a Lady of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, the highest honor bestowed by the pope on a lay person.

Daidai is survived by her six children: Annie, Clarence, Norman, Patricia, Frances, and Priscilla, along with many grand and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Monday at Mount Carmel Cathedral and will begin with the *responso* at 8:30am. Burial services will begin 10:30am, followed by the burial itself at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

FBI

From Page 1

Wednesday.

In an interview, FBI Special Agent Brandon Simpson said that two of the agents now with the bureau's CNMI office are preparing to leave for new assignments but four will replace them, likely by the end of the year. This move will give the FBI six agents in the CNMI, compared to the four it has here now.

One task among many assigned to the four agents coming to the CNMI, Simpson said, will be investigating public corruption.

"These agents will be working on public corruption investigations," Simpson said, adding that their work will not be confined to that role. "There's no particular criminal threat that we're responding to with adding them to the office but we're certainly always looking to add resources where they may be effective."

The FBI's decision to increase its staff in the CNMI comes after an extensive investigation by the bureau's local office into an alleged scheme involving Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and three others to bilk thousands out of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless chemical purchases.

Villagomez and two of the others indicted earlier this month—former Commerce chief James Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos—pleaded not guilty in federal court. Former CUC director Anthony Guerrero has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy in the case and is expected to testify under the terms of a plea agreement. A jury trial will begin in October.

19.6 MW

From Page 1

The island was experiencing extensive load shedding because of the lack of power.

At Power Plant 1, only engine 3, producing 5 megawatts, was operational yesterday evening. The nine operational engines at Power Plant 4 were producing 14.6 megawatts. Combined, these add up to just 19.6 MW for the entire island of Saipan.

At Power Plant 1, engine 2 went down Sunday because repairs were needed for the crankpin bearings, said Gary Camacho, acting Power Division manager.

Engine 6 was experiencing mechanical and electrical problems, as well.

Camacho said engine 6, which will provide 6 MWs of power, should be up and running this morning. Engine 2 should be repaired by the end of next week and will provide 5 megawatts.

Engine 8, which is currently down, should be operational late today, Camacho said.

Although CUC executive director Antonio Muña said Monday that engine 8 would be down indefinitely until repair parts were purchased, Camacho said his crew told him it would be fixed soon.

"I asked, 'Are we certain?'" he said yesterday evening. "They made it perfectly clear that [engine 8] would be up and running [today], the following day at the latest."

With engine 3 the only operational engine at Power Plant 1 and nine of the 10 engines at Power Plant 4 working, the island was receiving at most 19.6 MW. Camacho said the island was receiving 18 to 20 megawatts on average yesterday.

In order to follow the two-hour load shedding schedule, at least three engines producing about 40 megawatts should be operational, Camacho said. When it gets down to one, extensive load shedding takes place.

The crewmembers must be commended for their hard work in trying to fix and repair the engines as soon as problems arise, Camacho said.

CUC is hoping for relief by mid-September when the Aggreko generators are expected to be operational. On Monday, Muna said the engines, which will provide an additional 15 megawatts of power, should be up and running by Sept. 16 or 17.

Survey: More students will be pursuing college

Borja

More than 40 percent of 2008 Marianas High School graduates are planning to attend college this fall.

According to the senior exit survey, 22 percent of students plan on attending college off-island, while 26 percent will attend Northern Marianas College.

"We really do stress academics," acting MHS principal Karen Borja said. "Even if they are going to work, we stress more education because they will be better able to work."

Twenty-three percent of respondents plan on working, while 17 percent plan on entering the military, according to the survey. Students that attend NMC might also be working, Borja said. Five percent of students plan on staying home.

Last year, 49 percent of respondents planned on going to college. More students are planning on attending college off island this year—22 percent this year compared to 19 percent last year.

Fewer students are planning on working directly after high school this year, according to the surveys. Last year, 35 percent of respondents said they were going to go straight to work compared to 23 percent this year. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

DCCA strives to save dying languages

In an effort to save the deteriorating state of the CNMI's two distinct native languages, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is now drafting a grant for language assistance to be submitted to the Office of the Governor for approval sometime in January 2009.

DCCA Secretary Melvin L.O. Faisao said the department is coordinating this with the Administration for Native Americans.

He said it is still in its planning and formalizing stages and they expect the final draft to be completed in five months.

DCCA has enlisted the help of Dr. Laurie Philip of the Hawaii-based Pacific Resources for Education and Learning for technical assistance.

There is much concern that the Chamorro language may disappear if people don't teach the youth to speak it.

Faisao recalled that in 2003, DCCA conducted a proficiency survey in schools on the Chamorro and Carolinian languages.

"What was alarming was that it indicated that native languages are not being proficiently utilized in homes and communities," said Faisao.

He said DCCA, through the efforts of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission, strives to promote proficient use and preservation of these languages through the Carolinian Language Symposium and Cultural Heritage Months; Inetnon Amot Chamorro and Cultural Heritage Months; and Abiba Lenguahita and Muareiti Mwaliyaasch Local TV Talk Show.

Faisao noted that the Carolinian Affairs Office has taken the initiative of formulating a Language Steering Group called the Carolinian and Related Language Assistance, CARLA.

CARLA's main goal is to update existing dictionary and CD mass production of the Carolinian Dictionary while DCCA is working with the Indigenous Affairs Office and the community to formulate a steering group with a similar objective and goals as that of CARLA.

Saipan will host the Annual Chamorro Conference next month. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Supreme Court upholds sex assault conviction

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied the appeal of a man convicted of sexual assault of a minor stemming from a 2003 incident.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, and Associate Judges Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglona found the trial court did not err in convicting Joselito Castro.

In 2004, Castro was convicted of sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, after he kissed a 9-year-old girl on the mouth five times and touched her breast four times.

Castro appealed to the Supreme Court on three grounds: he was denied a bill of particulars; the trial court erred in denying his request to instruct the jury to follow a unanimity decision; and his conviction subjected him to double jeopardy.

The Supreme Court justices wrote in their decision that Castro was given sufficient information about the charges, including the dates, initials of the victim, details of the crime, and 30 pages of discovery materials.

At the close of the 2004 trial, Castro asked the court to instruct the jury they must unanimously agree that at least one of the sexual acts occurred, but must not mix non-unanimous findings about several incidents to come up with a guilty verdict. The trial court denied Castro's request. The Supreme Court upheld the decision because, they wrote, "Castro's actions constituted a continuing course of conduct… these actions were so closely connected that they formed one continuous, unlawful event."

The Supreme Court also denied Castro's double jeopardy appeal because he failed to argue double jeopardy at trial or brief the issue on appeal.

Castro was 40 years old when he kissed the 9-year-old girl after he volunteered to drive the girl to her aunt's friend's house. Along the way, he stopped several times and kissed and touched her breasts.

In 2004, Judge David Wiseman sentenced Castro to seven years in prison with three years suspended for each of the sexual abuse convictions; one year imprisonment for the assault and battery conviction; and six months imprisonment for disturbing the peace.

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High Court reinstates criminal convictions

The Commonwealth Supreme Court has affirmed a decision by the Superior Court reinstating Carlito E. Eguia's convictions for criminal mischief and assault and battery.

Eguia had requested that his convictions be vacated under 6 CMC § 4113, which allows convictions to be purged from an individual's record after he or she successfully completes his or her sentence. The Superior Court agreed to the request, but reversed its decision and reinstated the convictions upon a motion by the Attorney General's Office. The AGO argued that the convictions were controlled by 6 CMC § 4105, which did not allow them to be purged from a criminal record after the successful completion of sentence. Based on this argument, the Superior Court reinstated the convictions.

The Supreme Court found that the sentencing orders did not specifically mention or even allude to 6 CMC § 4113. In previous cases, the Supreme Court held that in order for 6 CMC § 4113 to apply, it must be specifically mentioned in a plea agreement or sentencing order. If it is not mentioned, then 6 CMC § 4105 will control.

Eguia also argued that the reinstatement of his convictions after the Superior Court vacated them amounted to a violation of his double jeopardy rights. The Supreme Court held that Eguia's double jeopardy rights were not violated because the Superior Court merely corrected an error in handling his sentence.

The Supreme Court panel that decided the case consisted of Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and Associate Justice John A. Manglona. ***(PR)***

Parents of special needs kids join 3-day training

Some 60 parents of children with special needs joined a three-day training co-sponsored by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club on Aug. 25-27.

Headed by its president, Liza Ada, AFD is a private initiative group that has been organizing the annual training since 2005 with the motto "One Family Serving Families."

Service Navigator Rhea Chong said they have different themes and topics every year. This year, the theme centered on "Making the IEP Work for Parents and Children."

The topics discussed during yesterday's last day of training, which was presented by resource speaker Susan Yuan included "How to Exercise Parents Rights"; "Families Developing Interactions"; Coordinating with Developmental Disabilities Council"; and Transitioning to Employment or Higher Education."

Chong said a total of 20 individuals registered on the first day on Monday, 60 on Tuesday and 50 on Wednesday.

Individuals with disabilities also joined the training as well as and some were teachers.

As a non-profit organization, AFD secures support for the Family Hope Center.

It has been involved with the Saipan color ID. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' Assistive Technology Program together with the Public School System (PSS)-SpEd JIT Members are co-sponsoring an Assistive Technology Fair on **August 30, 2008, 8:00am to 3:00pm at Aqua Resort, Raraina Room, Saipan**

The purpose of the AT Fair is to demonstrate and inform the CNMI community of the assistive technology devices and software that are available for individuals with print and learning disabilities.

We are inviting the Honorable Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Legislators, CNMI Government Department Heads and Executive Directors, parents, individuals with disabilities, family members of children with disabilities, care providers, and CNMI educators to attend. In addition, all PSS teachers (general and SpEd) who attend may earn professional development hours.

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Guest Presenter: Ms. Eleri Hanley, Crick Soft Education Consultant will be conducting a product presentation on the following Crick Soft products:

1. Clicker 5
2. Clicker Paint
3. ClozePro
4. Wordbar
5. Penfriend
6. Write Online

12:30 p.m to 3:00 p.m.

Guest Presenters: PSS JIT members will be demonstrating the following assistive technology devices for print and learning disabilities.

Braille Assistive Technology Devices and Software:

1. Duxbury Braille Translation Software
2. Kurzweil 1000
3. OCR Scanner
4. Juliet Classic 60 Interpoint Braille Embosser
5. IVEO Talking Touch Pad
6. WindowEyes Screen Reader

Braille Writing Devices & Notetakers:

1. Mountbatten Braille Writer Learning System
2. Mimc LCD Visual Display
3. Jot a Dot Braille Writer
4. BrailleNote Braille Keyboard 18 Cells
5. VoiceNote with QWERTY Keyboard

Print Disabilities/Learning Disabilities Assistive Technology Devices & Software:

1. Victor Stream Daisy / MP3 / Memo Player
2. Kurzweil 3000 Color Scan/Read Software
3. Victor Reader Software
4. Don Johnston Solo: Write out Loud/CoWriter
5. Classmate

*** For more information, please call the CNMI Council on DD at 664-7000, 7041, 7042, 7044, 7005.**

Antonio C. Chong
Executive Director

John D. Arriola
Chairman

Three-day DUI checkpoints coming up

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI checkpoints on Friday and Saturday and on Sept. 1, Monday.

Tomorrow, Aug. 29, the first set up will be on Beach Road San Jose by the Marianas Printing Building. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by Bobby's Café. This operation will start around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, the first setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by Bank Pacific. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Chalan Laulau by the PTI Building. This operation will start around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

On Monday, Sept. 1, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by the former Flair Club. This will start around 7:30pm and end at about 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by the Hans Corporation. This operation will start around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect impaired driving and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact acting Sgt. Juan C. Mendiola or acting Lt. Paul Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chacha student orientation set

Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School announced yesterday that it will be having its student orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008, at 2:30pm in the school cafeteria. For more information, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Tinian High PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents/legal guardians of Tinian High School (7th-12th graders) that there will be a special meeting for the PTSA on Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, at 3pm at the Tinian Youth Center.

Agenda will include counting of ballots and announcement of PTSA officers.

For more information, call Augusta Famaw, Lynette I. Hofschneider, Vida Borja, Wella Mendiola or Frances H. Diaz. ***(PR)***

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The people of Kagman and Precinct 5 would like to get to know all the candidates for the CNMI Delegate position. The community will be having a public forum in September at the Kagman Community Center. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand.

If you are interested in meeting with the Kagman and Precinct 5 public, contact the Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres at balutan@balutanbox.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Free immigration reform seminar

There will be a free seminar for alien workers in the CNMI, focusing on immigration reform and non-immigrant visa, to be led by lawyer y Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates on Aug. 30, 2008 (Saturday), from 2pm to 5:30pm at the Saipan Community Church.

For more information and reservation, contact Irene at 285 7717/322 8897 (leave your name and number) or e-mail her at irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Wing Beach cleanup set

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Wing Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet brigade members at Wing Beach at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks, and continue the cleanup, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, volunteers removed debris from Makaka Beach. The last time Wing Beach was selected as a brigade location was September 2007. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Seatbelt, child seat checkpoints today

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting seatbelt/child seat checkpoints today, Aug. 28.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by the Fishing Base. This will start at 4pm and end around 5:15pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. This will begin at about 7:30pm and end at 8:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicles occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

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If you have an employee who resign and still has the keys to the office or business. I suggest that you rekey all your locks for security purposes.

Most clients don't really understand what the master key is use for. Each individual locks has its own key, but the master key will open all the locks. It also provides you the convenience of holding only one key, also for your own security. There are three types of master key which are: Grand Master, Master, and Baby Master.

Example: If you own a business or apartments and incase of an emergency; like if there is a fire or one of the employee or tenants lock themselves out. You wouldn't want to go through bunch of keys looking for the right key to open the door. But with the master key it will enable you to open all doors. This can also be done in residential homes as well.

Any question please free to call me at: 483- 5625(LOCK)
or email at ale.iakopo@yahoo.com

Medina to be installed as Saipan Postmaster

HONOLULU—Hector Medina will be officially installed as the Postmaster for Saipan at a special program scheduled for Sept. 3, at 10am, at the Saipan Post Office in Chalan Kanoa. He replaces the late George Diaz, who passed away in February.

As Saipan Postmaster, Medina will supervise nine postal employees and the daily distribution of approximately 14,000 pieces of mail daily to 5,900 Chalan Kanoa Post Office box customers. He also oversees the contract postal unit operations on Capitol Hill, in San Vicente and Tinian, which encompasses another 2,800 customers.

Medina is a 35-year postal employee who had served as the officer-in-charge (acting postmaster) at the Guam Post Office for six months before assuming the same position on Saipan in February, and was eventually selected as the permanent Saipan postmaster in May. He began his postal career in 1973 at the Hagatna Station in Guam. He served as a mail carrier for 17 years, and then assumed a variety of supervisory positions within the Guam Post Office over the years.

"Becoming a postmaster is a long-time dream of mine," said Medina. "I pledge to provide the best possible service to my customers. I also hope to become an active participant in community functions and affairs. I would like to thank my family for their support and understanding, postal leadership for their vote of confidence, and the people of Saipan for their acceptance."

The brief installation program will feature the administration of the Postmaster's Oath of Office to Medina by Leo Tudela, the Postal Service's Director of Asia Pacific Relations. Remarks will also be given by invited guests, including Gov. Benigno Fitial and other Saipan political and business leaders.

Medina was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Indiana. He settled in Guam 38 years ago after serving in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife Elizabeth have been married for 36 years and reside in Gualo Ria. They have three adult children and seven grand children. Medina enjoys watching and coaching sports, including Little League baseball.

The U.S. Postal Service visits 146 million homes and businesses six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenues of $73 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail. ***(USPS)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 28, 2000

House approves $222M budget

The House of Representatives approved the FY 2001 budget package on Friday amounting to $221.66 million, augmenting spending limit by the legislative and judicial branches as well as key government agencies. For the first time, lawmakers also agreed to transfer responsibility of paying government utilities to each department or agency in an effort to encourage power and water conservation in public offices.

Feds scrap funding for Tinian breakwater repair

Repair of the dilapidated Tinian breakwater suffered yet another halt after funding for a feasibility study that was supposed to be carried out by the United States Army Corps of Engineers has been reportedly scrapped from its Fiscal Year 2001 budget. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the sudden change in the program was reported to him during his visit to Hawaii last week, where he was also informed that the $100,000 budget for the study will not be available until the succeeding fiscal year.

Study: NMC's major marketing setback points to high tuition

High tuition and fees have been blamed on the Northern Marianas College's failure to attract more students, a study conducted by a group of NMC students disclosed. According to the marketing study, the rate of tuition and fees offered for international students is the main factor that affects the college's chances of increasing its foreign student enrollment.

August 28, 2001

Bird population in Farallon declining

The United States Navy yesterday admitted that there has been a decrease in the number of birds in the CNMI, particularly on the island of Farallon de Medinilla, which is being used for military bombing exercises. This developed as the Navy reiterated plans to extend bombing exercises by the military to Tinian. At present, there are at least eight types of ordnance being used by the military in the Farallon de Medinilla exercises.

NMC Fall enrollment soars 21%

Massive marketing efforts by the Northern Marianas College paid off as the institution recorded a hefty 21 percent increase in enrollment figures for the Fall 2001 semester. The college's full-time equivalency reached 960 for the current term as opposed to the 796 FTEs during Fall of last year, according to enrollment records compiled as of August 20, 2001.

Teno rejects creation of legislative finance office

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has vetoed the Senate bill that would provide comprehensive legislation for the Legislative Bureau, saying that a provision in the proposed measure creating an Office of Legislative Finance is violative of the CNMI Constitution. Tenorio said the Commonwealth Constitution specifically says that only the finance department can control and regulate the expenditure of public funds and that language is specifically provided preventing the legislature or any other agency from setting up its own finance office.

August 28, 2002

Classroom shortage in public schools

The Public School System is anticipating an acute shortage of classrooms in several government educational institutions, as student population grows by an annual rate of 5 percent. The PSS said Kagman and the northern portion of Saipan are among the areas with the fastest growing student population, considering the large new homesteads in these villages. Based on the PSS-Capital Improvement Project Report, Saipan is the only island throughout the Northern Marianas expecting a classroom shortage over the next five to seven years.

No shortlist yet on new AG

The Babauta administration has given itself a deadline of two weeks to come up with its choice of the person who will slide into the vacant seat of the Attorney General. Just before leaving for Tokyo on Monday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said it will take his administration a week or two to shorten its long list of possible nominees to the post to just one name.

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August 28, thru September 3, 2008

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Tarnished gold

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former head of the International Olympic Committee who helped engineer Beijing's successful bid to host this summer's Games, was quick to dub the extravaganza "the best Olympics ever" as the proceedings closed on Sunday. Such pronouncements are as subjective as a gymnastics score, but it's beyond question that China can say it has hosted the most expensive Olympics ever and, quite possibly, the most rigidly controlled.

Historians might debate the latter point. Adolf Hitler's 1936 Berlin Games were just as much an international propaganda campaign as the 2008 event, carefully choreographed to demonstrate the glory of the Third Reich. But even Hitler couldn't control the weather. Chinese leaders, terrified that Beijing's lung-blackening air pollution would cast a pall over the city's image as well as its skies, directed the Weather Modification Office (yes, there really is such an agency) to seed clouds throughout the Games so that rainfall could flush away the filth. Yet rain wouldn't do during the opening and closing ceremonies at the open-air Bird's Nest stadium, so hundreds of rockets were fired into the clouds to chase them away.

In the end, China got precisely what it paid more than $41 billion for. It won far more gold medals than any other nation, persuaded world leaders to attend the Games despite their misgivings about Beijing's horrific human rights record both domestically and abroad, and announced with a clamor as loud as the 2,008 drummers who performed at the opening ceremony that it is a rising power that should command respect.

Yet what planners in Beijing miscalculated is that no matter how well you teach performers to smile, the strain behind the lips is still detectable. The near-hysterical drive by Chinese leaders to put on the biggest, most spectacular sporting event ever, and to engineer a generation of Chinese medalists regardless of the financial or human costs, is rather more disconcerting to the outside world than convincing. If it was Beijing's intention to prove China's greatness via the Games, what it has demonstrated instead is the fragility of its ego.

British officials are no doubt wondering how they can possibly top the spectacle of Beijing when London hosts the Summer Games in 2012. They shouldn't even try. The British have nothing to prove, and it will be refreshing to watch an event in which athleticism matters more than image. The London Olympics will probably be messier and less awe-inspiring than the Chinese Games, but it's a good bet they'll be more fun.

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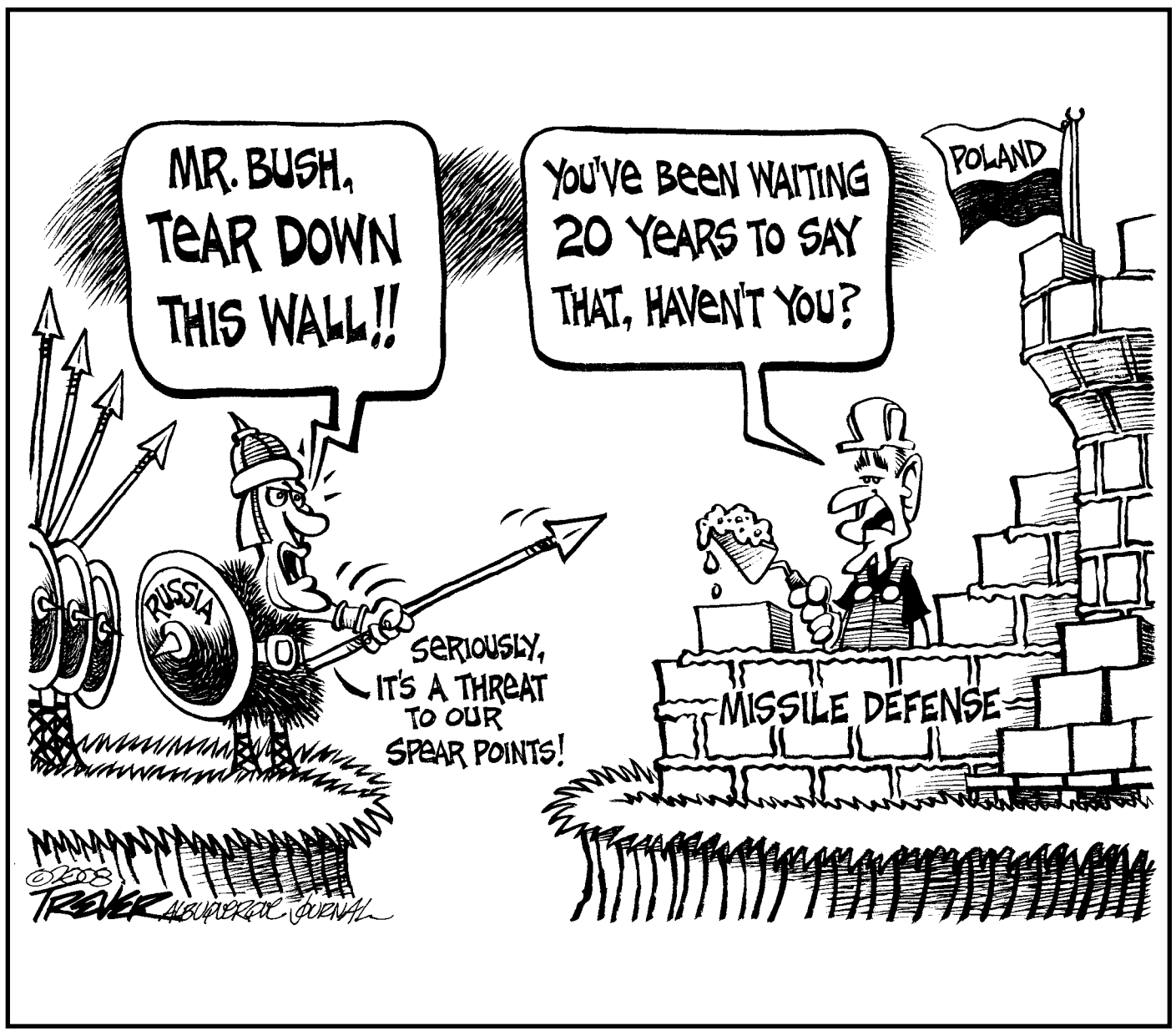
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Are we having fun yet?

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

With all the misery we're experiencing from the frequent CUC power outages, we thought it would be good to try and find the silver lining behind the dark clouds of despair. Yes, there is actually some good that can come from the rolling blackouts, if you look hard enough.

When the power goes out, we have tried to use the time to interact more with our family members by going out to shop, playing volley ball, going to the park, or walking on the pathway. It's also a good time to catch up on your reading, make some calls, or go out to eat at a restaurant with a generator.

As an entrepreneur, you need to find time to put more fun into your life. A core problem for a lot of businesspeople is that they fail to schedule fun into their day. Fun breaks can actually help you become more productive by reducing stress and avoiding burnout. In addition, some of your best ideas may come to you when you are away from the computer or doing something not related to work.

Think of all the things you really enjoy. Challenge yourself by writing 1 to 20, and listing at least 20 fun things you enjoy doing. If you accept the challenge, this may be tougher than you expect, but even if you can only list 5 things, you will have a list you can work with.

You may even want to have a few of your friends, or your spouse and children make their list and then share them with each other. You'll discover some interesting things about the other individuals and you may want to schedule time to try some of the things on each other's list. To help you out, here is a list of some things that others have placed on their list. Feel free to adapt or adopt them if you think they sound fun.

■ Being artistic or creative with something, even if it doesn't make money.

■ Fixing or building something with your hands.

■ Design your ideal home or come up with the criteria for your ideal business.

■ Learn a new hobby or skill that you've always wanted to learn, and then teach it to someone else.

■ Getting to know fascinating people who have a strong vision for their future.

■ Brainstorming great ideas with friends or entrepreneurs with like interests.

■ Singing as loud as you can, even though you may not do it well.

■ Volunteering your time to work with some great people for a good cause.

■ Traveling to a new place or hiking through the jungle.

■ Taking 15 minutes a day to be alone so you can reflect on your thoughts or feel gratitude for your life.

■ Make a new friend each day.

■ Accomplishing something that "can't be done" or that you have always feared doing.

■ Spending several hours playing your favorite sport with some good friends.

■ Renting Harley-Davidson motorcycles with some friends and cruising around for the whole day.

There are many more things you can add to your list, and hopefully the above list has got you thinking. Typically, the things on your list will fall under one of these categories: your children, spouse, or significant other; your dreams or aspirations; your education, training, or teaching or mentoring others; your health; doing something you love; or a worthy cause.

After you make the list, the next question is how many of the things you listed have you made time to do in the last 6 months? If you've done most of the things on your list, then congratulations. However, if you have only done a few of them, then it's time for you to commit to adding fun activities to each day.

Here are three more things you can do to ensure that you make time for fun: 1) Review your list and choose something you would like to do today, or a few things you would like to do within a week; 2) schedule the activities in your calendar by stating the date and time you plan to do them; 3) coordinate the activities with someone special, people you like to hang out with, or some people you would like to get to know better. Scheduling it with other people ensures that you'll keep your commitment to do the fun things.

By making the time to have fun each day, you'll be more successful. Everyone needs a "breather" in their schedule – something fun they look forward to. It will help make you a much more productive, lively and a more enjoyable person to be around. Are you having fun yet?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Clarification of emergency directive

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the letter Gov. Benigno R. Fitial sent to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios in response to the two's Aug. 19, 2008, letter requesting clarification on the governor's emergency declaration for the CNMI.

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno R. Fitial is the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I am in receipt of your letter of August 19. You recount your Chambers' recent review of the "grave situation" at CUC and your recent enactment of PL 16-9 that allows for temporary power contracts by fixing a problem with the PUC Act on condition that I issue a disaster declaration. You note that, as provided, I did issue EO 2008-10, which included three directives to allow the temporary power Aggreko contract to move forward. You request a clarification on the terms of Directive 2, suspending PUC **pre**-review of such contracts and related power generation efforts.

I am happy to provide that clarification in this letter. But first I want to thank both of you for responding so quickly to a crisis which threatened our community. You did so on short notice. You spent most of your work day in a room without lights or air conditioning to solve a legal/legislative problem which had arisen just days before. Because of your efforts we will hopefully soon have round-the-clock power with no danger of harm to CUC's power plant staff.

I would also like to ask for your help in avoiding any more crises like the one we just had. We need to fix the PUC Act to make sure that problems in the Act's wording never endangers our workers, or harms our citizens.

Now to the clarification—I included the referenced language in my directive to protect against an unnecessary layer of PUC review worsening our power crisis.

Background on legal interpretation of the power crisis

You will recall that we were in crisis about three weeks ago. Tony Muna's plant engineers had advised him to shut down Power Plant #1 before one of the engines blew up. Part of the plant was already down, so we were experiencing daily blackouts. He had moved quickly, to hire a world-class European company, Aggreko, to provide temporary power to us with no change in the rates.

CUC had found the company properly. They had done a public RFP solicitation as our procurement regulations require. Previous CUC leadership had, however, not acted on the open solicitation. Meanwhile our electricity generators continued to fail, piece by piece.

The Aggreko deal was the right one to get us through the massive repairs that would take Power Plant #1 off line. But a dispute over legislative interpretation was going to kill it. The Public Utility Commission ("PUC") wrote CUC on July 29, demanding that they review the deal AND decide if an independent company like Aggreko could do business in the CNMI.

The PUC insisted that Aggreko was going to be a "public utility", and would need to go through the lengthy process of getting a special utility certificate from them AND a pre-contract review process. But the PUC has no staff, and no experience yet in such matters. It was pretty clear that Tony Muna's efforts were going to fail, along with Power Plant #1. Blackouts would get worse, and Tony's staff were in danger—he used the sobering military term "in harm's way".

This PUC letter made little sense to me—the new commissioners were trying to regulate the wrong company at the wrong time. Of course, the PUC Act provides that monopolies for power, water and wastewater treatment are regulated. This means that their rates, charges and their treatment of their customers is to be reviewed by the PUC. This is similar to the law in 50 states.

But the PUC does not pre-approve CUC's work. The PUC is not a board of directors. It does not hire CUC staff, revise office procedures, assess spare parts, or buy paper clips. Its reviews come almost always when the monopoly, CUC, wants to change its rates and procedures.

In this case, the PUC role should have been obvious—once CUC fixes the temporary power problem, PUC can review the contracts to see if there is any effect on rates. But if there is no effect, no PUC action will be needed. As I say, this is the way things work everywhere else in the US.

The PUC caused the crisis because it took an overly literal view of some statutory language that seems to say that *anything* is a "public utility" which sells. a "system" or a "facility" to the CUC. (Excerpt from statute attached) PUC also demanded that it review all contracts *before* they are signed, even if there is no effect on rates.

This of course makes no sense. It would convert into a "public utility" such independent suppliers as Telesource and PMIC, and the company which sells and maintains CUC's accounting system. Arguably it would restrict future suppliers—a company setting up a parts repair facility or installing a water treatment system.

It is unfortunate that the statute is worded this way, but the problem should not have interfered with fixing our electricity system. PUC's interpretation and demand for a halt in the temporary power deal had created a crisis.

But your quick action helped forestall the crisis. At my request you and your legislative colleagues moved quickly. You drew up a statute to exempt this temporary power deal from the PUC's reading of the term "public utility". It specifically required me to declare a disaster emergency before the definition would work.

The disaster declaration was drafted to address precisely the need to get these temporary power units in place as quickly as possible and shut down the potentially deadly Power Plant #1 engines. So, E0 2008-10 declared the disaster. The three directives addressed the situation before us. I would like to set out the wording and explain its purpose. Please keep in mind that this language was focused on keeping the power flowing to our citizens and to essential services:

The directives to get the power flowing

My disaster declaration followed the statutory and Constitutional requirements, addressing the specifics of our power crisis and the imminent danger of an explosion at Power Plant 1. I included three directives in the declaration in order to make it immediately effective in solving the problem.

DIRECTIVE 1: CUC's Procurement Regulations and the CNMI Procurement

Regulations applicable to CUC, if any, are hereby suspended as to CUC procurements, except that CUC must fully document all procurement activity for Executive, Public Auditor and Legislative review."

Purpose: I suspended the procurement regulations in order to assure us that CUC could get the power flowing quickly, and avoid any explosions.

CUC had processed the Aggreko deal through its procurement process, starting more than two years before. But even though the process went forward properly, I fear that someone with a narrow financial interest will try to stop our progress with formal "protests". I have suspended the protest provisions.

There had been some criticism appearing in the press, particularly an argument that a "better" idea would be to barge over to Saipan an old, idle generator from Tinian. The "protest" provisions of the regulations can stop our progress in installing the temporary power. The directive's language accomplishes two purposes: (a) We can avoid self-serving protests against the main contract. (b) Just in case spare parts would be necessary to hook up Aggreko, or CUC needs to hire someone to string a power line, CUC should be able to move quickly. I have suspended the time-consuming bidding requirements.

However, I wanted to make it clear that I will not give CUC a "free pass". I insisted that the agency tell me, you and the Public Auditor about this, and any other procurement. I have demanded that CUC "fully document" its procurement activities.

DIRECTIVE 2: *"The Commonwealth Public Utility Commission ("PUC") Act of 2006, PL 15-35, as amended, is hereby*

See CLARIFICATION on Page 13

Letters to the Editor

A few thoughts

Tina Sablan and Ed Propst have recently written excellent letters that basically says it all. Unfortunately, the Legislature and Executive Branch fail to take heed of the changing times. I—like many of my Chamorro and non-Chamorro friends—am fed up with the daily foolishness of our government. The will, mandate, and desires of the CNMI people are turned aside for the greed of a few. When the full spectrum of voters—from Ed Propst and Don Cohen to Greg Cruz—are in agreement, it is ever so evident that the ruling body of the CNMI has lost the respect of the general public. I hear negative sentiments regarding our politicians everyday at work and out in the community. No one seems to have anything positive to say. And for good reason.

And now...a few thoughts:

■ When Tina Sablan's critics in the Legislature tell her she should "roll up her sleeves" and work on the issues, well, I'm wondering where these critics were when Tina was meeting with the people of the CNMI in public forums. She respects the will of the people and goes out to gather their opinions. And she fights against those bills that are glaringly harmful to the citizens. Compromise? How can a person of good conscience compromise on legislation that is either bad...or more bad. Thank goodness there is a "Lone Ranger" in the House.

■ Lt. Governor Villagomez should at least step down while he is being investigated. The fact that the Governor has not forced this makes many people believe the Governor is, in fact, covering up something. One would think this is "fourth world" political shenanigans, not a democracy.

■ While some of the legislators feel that impeachment is not indicated since there is no "proof" of wrongdoing, this just makes an even more compelling argument for transparency within the government. If they have nothing to hide, let the Governor and Lt. Governor allow an independent federal auditor to go through their "books." I'm sure they would find the overwhelming data to fulfill the criteria for impeachment. Of course, politicians would not allow this because there is so much hidden behind "closed doors." In fact, why is it that the Legislature and Executive Branch are not part of the Open Government Act? We all know why. I look forward to seeing the mandate of the people when the Open Government initiative goes on the ballot. Let our government be transparent and put an end to the corruption. Impeachment? Sure...open the books and let the games begin.

■ CUC has long been the "corrupt politicians bank." History makes it painfully clear the need to privatize the CUC. Even now, there is a very shady deal with a firm from England to provide power when we have offers of relatively "free" power in our own backyard. Who is benefiting from the Aggreko deal? If this deal, as well as many other dubious CUC contracts, were made transparent, it is likely that the pervasive corruption would quickly wither away and the honest and economically reasonable and feasible decisions would be made for the benefit of the people of the CNMI, not just for a few greedy rich politicians who care little about the citizens of these lovely islands.

■ The government keeps claiming that they are bankrupt. *They are not*. A review of legislation shows poor judgment, outright waste of public money, and *preferential* treatment for certain "family members, et al." If honesty, transparency, common sense, objective fiduciary responsibility (i.e., no sole-sourcing to your family members or friends), making and staying within the budget (if there were a budget!), reducing "the fat" within the government...ahh, the list goes on...then the public coffers would not be bankrupt and people wouldn't be forced to live in the Dark Ages. We could start by taking away the gas credit cards, phones, discretionary funds, cars, and other freebies enjoyed by the politicians and start to repay the Retirement Fund, improve the schools, have public utilities that work, and a host of other public improvements. These are the priorities. Ending wasteful politicians' discretionary funds alone could go a long way toward solving the so-called "government bankruptcy problem." Nope. Not bankrupt, just foolish and greedy.

■ Would I vote for those currently in office? Yes....maybe two or three of them. My vote would be cast only for those with a proven record of honesty and who care about the rights and future of the citizens of the CNMI. Would I vote for a governor who is a 28-year-old freshman representative, instead of voting for any of the "good ol' boy" politicians? Since I do care about our future and I want someone who has demonstrated honesty, transparency, *and* a willingness to roll up her sleeves and go out to listen to the people...a resounding YES! In a heartbeat. Isn't it time for a real change?

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

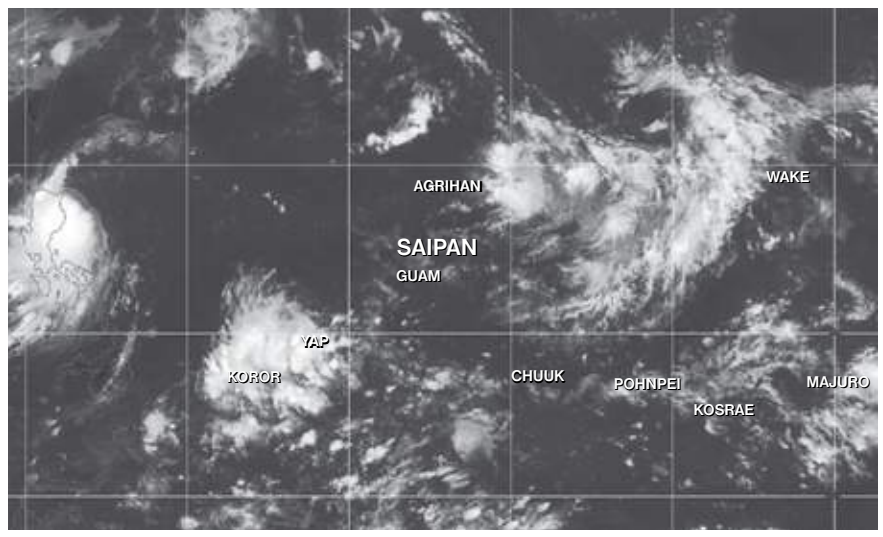
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Beijing	Showers	▲85	▼72
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Showers	▲74	▼65
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼72
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼62
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼56
San Francisco	Sunny	▲89	▼58
Seoul	Cloudy	▲86	▼64
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Rain	▲76	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Just west of our area, tropical storm 14W has formed east of Luzon near 17.5N 123.9E. Refer to JTWC bulletin WTPN31 PGTW for further information on this system. Elsewhere, upper-level lows are affecting our northern boundary and are located near 27N142E and 22N158E. Only spotted showers and thunderstorms are associated with the system to the northwest. However a low pressure trough and two surface circulations near 22N152E and 22N157E are visible in the satellite imagery to our northeast. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are being generated in throughout the area between 17N and 23N from 149E to 165E. South of 10N, a westward moving low pressure trough is creating an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Palau and Yap between 4N and 11N from 131E and 139E. Surface convergence between Chuuk and Pohnpei from 8N146E to 7N165E is causing a line of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of these points. In the Marshalls, another surface trough along 171E is aiding an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 2N and 8N from 169E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:04AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:46AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:01PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:12AM	4:32PM
Friday	4:14AM	5:20PM
Saturday	5:13AM	6:02PM
Sunday	6:08AM	6:42PM
Monday	7:01AM	7:20PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letters to the Editor

Getting serious with Tinian development

The last and worst of the revelations from the Mayor of Tinian's Office is that they have given up on moving the dump and are awaiting salvation courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

The need to move the Tinian dump away from 8th Avenue has been recognized by both the local, state and federal government for years. It was well known to the incumbent mayor of Tinian before he took office. Certainly former chairman of the Gaming Commission, former Senate President, and now chair of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Joseph Mendiola, has been aware of the need to move the dump. Given that, one consideration was to request a cooperative effort from the Navy. However, as soon as it became clear that option was not going to pan out in a timely manner, it became incumbent upon the leadership to take decisive action on the most viable alternative.

The Matua Bay Resort is a huge project that would complement the Dynasty Hotel and Casino as well as the other new casino now under construction with an international quality golf course. Now, we learn from the mayor's staff that they have done nothing about moving the dump and have no plans to do anything, but wait for the military and hope for the best. They cannot use "no money" as an excuse, not after squandering $10 million out of the Tinian Municipal Fund over the last two and one half years. The golf course project will not begin until the local government shows good faith by at least beginning the process of moving the dump.

Mr. Editor, I would ask your reporter to contact a representative of the Matua Bay Resort project and find out just how much his organization has already invested in Tinian, because that is how much effort we owe him and his associates in return for their faith in us.

The Governor of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Legislature must also share in the responsibility for the development of the casino industry on Tinian, for the same reasons they supported casino gambling on Saipan. Every nickel of revenue created by construction on Tinian goes straight to the CNMI General Fund. Every nickel of revenue created by the Dynasty Hotel and all associated businesses goes straight to the CNMI General Fund. These are moneys that could be used to pay for a new power plant on Saipan or pay off the debt to the Retirement Fund. There is no need to borrow if we can pay, and we can pay if we will only work for it.

I have no idea who in the Governor's Office is responsible for implementing federal Capitol Improvement Projects, but Speaker Palacios (the only legislator thus far to have shown some concern for CIP projects) should have that person in his office every week with an update on every project. If the leadership of Tinian won't do it, then the Speaker should set a goal for the date of the arrival of the first regularly scheduled landing at Tinian West Field Airport and check off progress. He then will be the honored guest of the people of Tinian that day. The Tinian elected leadership will probably be off island anyway.

Producing the economic development of Tinian is serious business. It affects the lives of every person on this island, and every person in the Commonwealth. If this administration, either local or state, cannot deal with the real problems facing the development of the casino industry, then they should step down and let competent people take over.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Twilight Zone

The current issues we face feels like we are living in the twilight zone. Fitial wants to waste $50,000 a month on a useless lawsuit against the feds. Why not use that money to benefit the community instead? It's a good thing the feds are taking over, because they can manage to keep accountability, unlike the CNMI government (CUC example). Because of federalization, we will now be getting our very own delegate. Residents will now have a better chance of getting jobs as well because nonresidents have to exit. There are not enough jobs for all of us. Marianas Trades Institute will prepare our residents for vocational jobs.

Majority of the lawmaker *you* voted for are against Tina Sablan for trying to identify problems. They fail to realize that in order to identify a solution, you must first identify the problem. I just wish more of them were like Tina in this aspect. A big problem is that many of them have been in office too long that they don't have an outsider's perspective. Many successful businesses hire CEOs from outside the company in order to get an outsider's perspective. Because when you are in the same position for so long, you fail to see what is really happening because you get stuck in the same mode of thinking after a while. Get those old fogies out of the Legislature and bring in some new, fresh thinkers.

We would not be having constant outages right now if CUC had taken up the offer from Telesource. Tinian has more power than they need. Telesource offered to ship the generator to Saipan, which is just a boat ride away. Instead, CUC decides to take on more debt by signing with Aggreko. Businesses now have to pay $900 to install power. I had to pay $931. The power rates are already going up because of gas prices, and now they will go up even further to pay the millions that they plan on giving Agrekko. CUC had refused to report their delinquent accounts to credit reporting agencies. They can collect millions of dollars by doing so. Another reason why we are suffering is because the governor just keeps appointing friends to important positions at government agencies. He does not make decisions wisely because he likes to appoint his unqualified friends who have no experience in the fields they are appointed for. It really sucks for those who have obtained a higher education (thanks to the CNMI scholarship and SHEFA) to come back out here and not get hired because of no connections. No wonder why many students don't come back after getting degrees.

In Kagman, we have been having three power outages every night when we are trying to get rest for work. We can't even do laundry when the power does turn on because there is either no water or the pressure is just too low. Villagomez needs to step down if he really did all those dirty deals to get rich quick. That $300,000 he supposedly misspent could have been used to fix these damn generators. This is only icing on the cake. This is only federal funding. Imagine all the local funding that have been abused as well. I better finish this letter before the power turns off again and again and again.

CUC has a new slogan: "CUC, ruining lives, one customer at a time."

Jesse Torres
Kagman, Saipan

A rare bird

I want to applaud Rep. Tina Sablan's integrity and courage in standing up to the good old boys that make up the CNMI Legislature. The other so-called lawmakers believe that their train will always be the one to pull into or leave the station. They apparently don't get the fact that a new day is dawning and with it will come the demise of the train and the depot.

I disagree with Representative Sablan. I think her call for impeachment is backwards. The governor should resign because he has certainly violated the public trust from the day he walked into office. He made promises to us for better times that he knew he couldn't keep. THAT is a violation of the trust we placed in him. As I said in an earlier missive, the Lt. Governor should also resign but that would mean he has a sense of integrity. Let his actions speak for themselves.

Representative Apatang, the first step in problem solving is to identify the problem. You call it the blame game, I call it problem identification. The same applies to comments by Vice Speaker De Leon Guerrero. Some of us have decided to roll our sleeves up and not bitch about problems. Apparently you aren't doing much to address them either. You guys are spending so much time with spin and denial that you have no time to address problems. What is funny is that you think no one notices.

Representative Babauta, if the House has no business to consider impeachment, who does? Perhaps a quick look at the Constitution is in order.

Representative Camacho, here is another flash for you: Rep. Sablan is following the legal process. Perhaps you also need to take a quick look at that Constitution. The House has introduced 145 bills in eight months? You think this is something to be proud of? You think this is why you were elected to office? Another news flash: In its most basic form, the function of government is to provide necessary services to a society and protect its citizens. In our society we look to the Legislature to fulfill these functions. Do you think that simply introducing a bunch of bills fulfills your most *basic* obligation to the people of the Commonwealth?

I'm not introducing this as fact but I will venture to say that Rep. Sablan is a rare bird indeed that actually sees or hears from her constituents on anything like a regular basis.

You guys slay me. High utility cost, rising consumer prices, the CUC debacle, the La Fiesta mess, reduced funding for education, zero economic growth, "federalization," reduced number of health care professionals, no balanced budget, and a $218 million deficit. And all you can do is bob and weave, pass the buck, deny and criticize the one person who is actually trying to do what we pay her for. A new day is coming. You good old boys aren't going to like it and from the looks of things you will only go kicking and screaming from your seats. But, believe me, you will go.

John H. Davis Jr.
Fina Sisu, Saipan

CLARIFICATION

From Page 11

suspended insofar as it would require the presentation of CUC procurement information, including contracts and other measures relating to the supply of power or the operation and maintenance of CUC's generation, for PUC review."

Purpose: I intended that we have no more, potentially deadly, delay based on legalistic interpretations of the PUC Act.

The PUC Act does *not* require PUC *pre*-review of contracts. But the July 29 PUC letter had insisted that PUC essentially substitute itself for CUC management, and review all contracts in advance. That is simply unacceptable. PUC is *not* CUC management. It was never intended to be. And it certainly does not have the resources and expertise to manage a utility company.

If Tony Muña is to solve our power crisis we must not tie his hands with time-consuming, unnecessary bureaucratic pre-reviews. The language of my directive makes clear that PUC is to focus on its main job—rates, charges and the cost of serving our citizens—and not on trying to run a utility company. PUC can examine contracts at the proper time.

DIRECTIVE 3: *CUC is specifically empowered to execute the wholesale generation power contract it has negotiated with an independent power producer for a period of two years or less*.

Purpose: There must be no doubt that CUC can contract for the immediate service we need to stop the blackouts and avoid an explosion at Power Plant #1.

There were press reports that some people thought there was something improper about the Aggreko deal. They obviously do not know the facts, including that the RFP was proper, that the choice was careful and deliberate, that Aggreko is a world-class firm with a superb track record for cost and schedule. Nor do such critics know that the financial terms of this contract are excellent, avoiding substantial up-front charges.

Next steps

Gentlemen, you have responded as most of us would to a critically ill relative. CUC and our economy are like a very ill person. We have raced the patient to the hospital. An overworked team has carried the patient in for emergency heart surgery.

In a short time we hope to see our patient well. We cannot stop the surgery while an outside committee, new on the job, learns which scalpel to use. We should not.

The disaster declaration, and the directives which implement it, are focused on bringing CUC and Saipan's community life back to health. I hope you agree with me that the measures I have taken are appropriate to the task.

In the meantime, I hope you can join with me to avoid a repeat of this crisis. The PUC Act needs repair. The Legislature's intention was not to make the PUC a super-board-of-directors for CUC. The Act could use a quick repair to simply define a "public utility" properly:

(a) "Public utility" shall mean:

(1) a retail provider in the Commonwealth of one or more of the following services and/or products:

(i) power;

(ii) water delivered through an integrated system of wells, storage, mains and lines;

(iii) wastewater and/or sewage treatment provided through an integrated system that includes collection through lines and mains, but not a tank pumping service;

(iv) telecommunications service.

(b) Except that it shall not mean:

(1) retail propane, gasoline or diesel fuel

(2) public transportation, including tour buses, boats, air services, ships and taxi cabs.

Island Snapshots

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently signed an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve/Department of Defense "Statement of Support for the Guard And Reserve," joining other employers nationwide and in Guam, pledging to support the men and women serving the country as members of the National Guard and Reserve. The government is the largest employer of reservists in the CNMI. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units. In picture, from left, are Rose Igitol, Area Chair for CNMI, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee; Ray Taimanglo, Military Outreach Director, Guam-CNMI Committee; Governor Fitial; Lt. Col. Ida Boyd, West Regional Deputy Director, National Committee for ESGR; and Benny Paulino, Chairman, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee.

NEW CPA BOARD MEMBERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swears in the new Commonwealth Ports Authority board members Friday afternoon, hours after some members were confirmed by the Senate. Board members include Joe Lifoifoi, Benigno M. Sablan, Sakisat, and Thomas P. Villagomez.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David L. Quitugua, originally of Rota, was a recipient of the Trainer/Maintainer for Excellent Achievement award for the month of May at Ft. Lewis, WA. He was also selected as the Employee of the Quarter. Quitugua is a U.S. Army retiree and currently works as an Ammunition Inspector for the federal government's Directorate of Logistics, Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance Program. Also in photo with Quitugua is Commanding General, LTG Charles Jacoby Jr.

DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

Jenisha Dubrall waves the CNMI flag as she observes the deployment ceremony for the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry soldiers from the CNMI at the Aloha Stadium in Hawaii. Jenisha prepares to wish her father, Jesse Dubrall, a safe journey with lots of hugs and kisses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AMERICORPS

Sixty students from across the CNMI gathered at the Pacific Islands Club for a three-day orientation for their upcoming year as AmeriCorps volunteers.

KRISTI EATON

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,087.80 Up 5.50 (+0.11%)	HONG KONG 21,204.80 Up 148.14 (+0.70%)
JAKARTA 2,127.79 Up 20.24 (+0.96%)	TOKYO 12,752.96 Down 25.75 (-0.20%)
K. LUMPUR 1,070.50 Down 8.23 (-0.76%)	MANILA 2,646.70 Up 9.05 (+0.34%)
SINGAPORE 2,702.83 Down 4.41 (-0.19%)	SEOUL 1,493.92 Up 3.67 (+0.25%)
BANGKOK 671.92 Up 3.00 (+0.45%)	

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,412.87 +0.23%

S&P 1,271.51 -1.51%

NASDAQ 2,361.97 -0.15%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1626
British Pound	0.5421
Canadian Dollar	1.0451
Chinese Yuan	6.8510
Euro	0.6796
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8079
Indian Rupee	43.7350
Indonesian Rupiah	9,171.5000
Japanese Yen	109.0700
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3795
New Zealand Dollar	1.4222
Philippine Peso	45.7050
Singapore Dollar	1.4178
South Korean Won	1,084.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0962
Taiwan Dollar	31.5190
Thailand Baht	34.1100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

FDIC: 117 troubled banks, highest level since 2003

BARBIE VS BRATZ AP

In this file photograph released by MGA Entertainment Feb. 10, 2006, are "Feelin' Pretty" Bratz dolls to be shown at the American International Toy Fair in New York. A federal jury awarded Mattel Inc. $100 million in damages on Tuesday in a federal copyright lawsuit that pitted the house of Barbie against MGA Entertainment Inc., the maker of the saucy Bratz dolls. The jury also ordered MGA, Larian and subsidiary MGA Hong Kong to pay a total of $10 million for copyright infringement.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of troubled U.S. banks leaped to the highest level in about five years and bank profits plunged by 86 percent in the second quarter, as slumps in the housing and credit markets continued.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data released Tuesday show 117 banks and thrifts were considered to be in trouble in the second quarter, up from 90 in the prior quarter and the biggest tally since mid-2003.

The FDIC also said that federally-insured banks and savings institutions earned $5 billion in the April-June period, down from $36.8 billion a year earlier. The roughly 8,500 banks and thrifts also set aside a record $50.2 billion to cover losses from soured mortgages and other loans in the second quarter. "Quite frankly, the results were pretty dismal," FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair said at a news conference, but they were not surprising given the housing slump, a worsening economy, and disruptions in financial and credit markets.

Number of uninsured drops; poverty holds steady

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people without health insurance fell by more than 1 million in 2007, the first annual decline since the Bush administration took office, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. Incomes edged up for the middle class while poverty held steady.

While the overall poverty rate held steady at 12.5 percent, poverty did rise among some groups. Latinos, children and the foreign-born—demographic categories that overlap considerably—experienced significant increases.

And while the number of uninsured dropped to 45.7 million, down from 47 million in 2006, it was largely because more people were covered through government programs. For the middle class, the median—or midpoint—household income rose to $50,233, a modest increase of $665 from the previous year.

Companies report 4 new deaths with diabetes drug

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eli Lilly and Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. on Tuesday reported four new deaths in patients taking Byetta, even as the companies tried to shore up the safety profile of their popular diabetes medication.

The announcement comes a week after the Food and Drug Administration said two Byetta patients died of acute pancreatitis, sinking shares of both drugmakers. An executive from Eli Lilly said the FDA was aware of the additional deaths but did not announce them because they involved a milder form the pancreatitis. The condition can cause nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

"They were concentrating on the more severe forms of the condition, but we felt it was important to get this information out there," Eli Lilly Medical Director James Malone told the Associated Press.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices rise as Hurricane Gustav nears Gulf

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices swung higher Tuesday as Hurricane Gustav struck Haiti, raising concerns that the storm could slam into major oil operations in the Gulf of Mexico. After dropping as low as $112.36 per barrel in overnight trading, light, sweet crude for October delivery ended the day up $1.16 to settle at $116.27 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange The average U.S. retail price for gasoline on Tuesday was $3.672, according to auto club AAA, Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. That is down about a penny from Monday, and down nearly 11 percent from the record $4.114 reached July 17—just a few days after crude hit an all-time high above $147 a barrel.

Citi pays $18M for questioned credit card practice

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup Inc. will pay nearly $18 million in refunds and settlement charges for taking $14 million from customers' credit card accounts, California's attorney general said Tuesday. Citigroup will make refunds to the 53,000 customers affected, and pay $3.5 million in damages and civil penalties to the state of California, which had been investigating the questionable practices for three years, the attorney general said. The bank will also pay 10 percent interest to California customers, who accounted for $1.6 million of the money "swept" out of accounts and into a Citi fund between 1992 and 2003.

Consumer outlook up, housing bottom may be near

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans felt better about the economy in August, as a barometer of sentiment posted the biggest boost in two years amid falling gas prices. Two reports suggested that a bottom could be nearing for the housing market, but economists caution it's too early to proclaim that the worst is over. The Conference Board, a private research group, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose to 56.9, up from a revised 51.9 in July. That's the largest gain since August 2006, and is ahead of the 53 expected by economists surveyed by Thomson/IFR. It's also the second month in a row that sentiment improved, after a six-month slide since January—but it remains about half what it was a year ago, and worries about the job market persisted.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Statewide Independent Living Council
3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2008 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, August 29, 2008-10:00A.M., at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Welcoming**

II. **Preliminary Items**
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes of 04/09/08

III. **Report**
- Chairperson
- OVR Director
- Trip Reports

IV. **Old Business**
- Resource Allocation Plan
- Unfilled Vacancies

V. **New Business**
- Onsite Review by RSA
- Council Proposed Status

VI. **Announcements**

VII. **Adjournment**

Jerry McVicar
Statewide Independent Living Council Chairman

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters/etc., are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is supported by federal funds under the United States Department of Education, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Nation

Clinton salutes Obama as Dems at convention cheer

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DENVER (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton summoned the millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House Tuesday night, and drew thunderous applause at the Democratic National Convention when she declared her one-time rival is "my candidate and he must be our president."

"We don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare," said the former first lady, writing the final chapter in a quest for the White House every bit as pioneering as Obama's own.

The packed convention floor became a sea of white "Hillary" signs as the New York senator—Obama's fiercest rival across 56 primaries and caucuses—strode to the podium for her prime-time speech. The signs were soon replaced others that read simply, "Unity."

While her remarks included a full-throated endorsement of Obama, Clinton did not say whether she would have her name placed in nomination or seek a formal roll call of the states when the party's top prize is awarded by delegates on Wednesday night.

Clinton had been the prohibitive favorite for the nomination she launched her campaign last year, seeking to become the first female president. But she fell behind Obama after the leadoff Iowa caucuses in January, and he now is poised to become the first black nominee of a major party.

Obama turned the featured speaking slot of the convention's second night over to Clinton, hoping she could nudge her disenchanted supporters toward his candidacy.

He called her after her speech to express his appreciation, aides said.

She followed others to the podium who ripped into Republican McCain as indifferent to the working class and cozy with big oil.

'If he's the answer, then the question must be ridiculous," New York Gov. David Paterson said of the GOP presidential candidate.

Said Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, "It's time to bring our jobs back and bring our troops home."

"Call the roll!" urged Ted Sorensen, a party elder eager to propel Obama toward the White House.

Not yet.

Obama's formal nomination was set for Wednesday night. First came Clinton,

The convention hall was packed for her appearance, so much so that officials sealed the entrances.

Calling herself a "proud supporter of Obama, Clinton dismissed Republican John McCain with a few choice words.

"No way. No how. No McCain," she said as the hall erupted in cheers.

"We don't need four more years ... of the last eight years," she added.

AP

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., waves at the crowed after her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, introduces her at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008.

Professor's body found in burned Idaho home

AP

Fourteen-year-old Spencer Lee inspects the family's vehicle on Tuesday morning, Aug. 26, 2008, with his parents, Christopher and Mindy Lee and his youngest brother, 18-month-old Adam, in Boise, Idaho.

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—In air still thick with the smell of smoke, authorities and residents of a Boise subdivision assessed the damage Tuesday after a wind-whipped wildfire burned several homes. Officials tried to determine whether the blaze killed a Boise State University professor whose body was found in a damaged house. Firefighters discovered the body of Mary Ellen Ryder, a professor of English and linguistics who was scheduled to teach her first class of the semester Tuesday, in one of the nearly 20 homes destroyed or damaged in the blaze.

Forensic tests on the remains have not been completed, and the cause of death has not been determined, said Ada County Coroner Erwin Sonnenberg.

Police said they didn't know whether Ryder is the same woman reported missing by relatives as the fire spread quickly from a vacant field of sagebrush up a ridge to the line of homes Monday night.

No other residents were injured, but 17 police officers and at least one firefighter were treated at hospitals for smoke inhalation and other injuries.

Mark Senteno, Boise assistant fire marshal, toured the charred neighborhood Tuesday morning, counting driveways where homes had been reduced to blackened rubble, and said 10 homes were destroyed.

The fire was brought under control early Tuesday, and residents from the more than 50 homes evacuated Monday night were allowed to return.

FAA says communication breakdown delayed flights

ATLANTA (AP)—An electronic communication failure Tuesday at a Federal Aviation Administration facility in Georgia that processes flight plans for the eastern half of the U.S. caused mass flight delays around the country. The Northeast was hardest hit.

But by early evening, the FAA said that the situation around the country was returning to normal, with delays remaining in Atlanta and Chicago.

At one point, an FAA Web site that tracks airport status showed delays at some three dozen major airports across the country. The site advised passengers to "check your departure airport to see if your flight may be affected."

The FAA said the glitch appeared to have involved a software problem.

FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen in Atlanta said there were no safety issues and officials were still able to speak to pilots on planes on the ground and in the air.

She said she did not know exactly how many flights were affected, but she said it was in the hundreds. The FAA did not expect to have total figures until Wednesday. Bergen said that in a 24-hour period the FAA processes more than 300,000 flight plans in the U.S.

Flash floods surprise drivers in Southwest, kill 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Eunice Mork and four of her closest friends were returning from a trip they made all the time—a 55-mile drive from playing bingo in Parker to their homes in Salome. But this time, a raging flash flood in a normally dry desert wash surprised Mork and her friends when it swamped the 77-year-old woman's small sedan late Monday amid lightning, thunder, rain and wind in a pitch-black area of rural western Arizona.

The five women climbed out of the car and tried to cling to it, but only two could hang on, La Paz County Sheriff Hal Collett said. Mork, who couldn't swim, and two others were swept away.

"It was dramatic—the winds were blowing so heavy that the rain was going sideways," Collett said. "I can't imagine how traumatic it was being swept away by the water."

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio man sentenced for writing racial hate letters

CLEVELAND (AP)—A man who wrote hundreds of threatening letters over 20 years to black and mixed-race men—including Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter—was sentenced Tuesday to three years and 10 months in prison. David Tuason apologized in federal court, saying he never meant to hurt anybody. He said he sent the threatening letters because a black man "stole" the girlfriend he planned to marry. Tuason, 46, pleaded guilty in May to six counts of mailing threatening communications and two counts of threatening interstate communications. Prosecutors said Tuason, who is of Filipino descent, sent more than 200 hateful letters or e-mails, many to black or mixed-race men seen with white women.

DA: NM escaped inmates may have had inside help

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP)—Five inmates who broke out of a New Mexico jail—including a killer and a man accused of murder—remained on the loose Tuesday, and a prosecutor said investigators were focusing on the possibility that someone inside aided in the weekend escape. Eight inmates escaped Sunday from the Curry County jail, but one was quickly captured and two others were caught in nearby Texas. District Attorney Matt Chandler said investigators believe some of the remaining escapees could be in west Texas. "We're still receiving tips that some of the other fugitives, at least one or two of the other fugitives, could be in" the Lubbock area, he said.

Fed official: Colo. men no true threat to Obama

DENVER (AP)—A group of suspected drug users arrested in Denver this weekend with methamphetamine, guns and bullet-proof vests made racist threats against Barack Obama but posed no true danger to the presidential candidate as he accepts the Democratic nomination here this week, federal authorities said Tuesday. The three men—all said to be high on methamphetamine when arrested—are the subject of an assassination investigation, but so fr, authorities say, it appears they had no capacity to carry out any attack on Obama. "The law recognizes a difference between a true threat—one that can be carrie out—and the reported racist rantings of a drug addict," U.S. Attorney Troy Eid said.

Detroit mayor faces ouster hearing next week

DETROIT (AP)—Mired in criminal charges for months, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick now finds his political future strapped to a little-used provision in the Michigan Constitution that allows a governor to remove an elected official for misconduct. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a fellow Democrat, confirmed Tuesday what had been in the works for much of the summer: A hearing will begin Sept. 3 to determine whether Kilpatrick was seeking private gain when he endorsed an $8.4 million settlement with three fired police officers. That deal carried confidentiality provisions that kept a lid on steamy text messages between the married mayor and his chief of staff at the time, both of whom denied having a relationship during testimony in a whistle-blowers' trial last year. It will be the first time since 1982 that a Michigan governor has considered the removal of an elected official.

Asia/World

Russia recognizes independence of Georgian regions

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia stunned the West on Tuesday by recognizing the independence claims of two Georgian breakaway regions, and U.S. warships plied the waters off of Georgia in a gambit the Kremlin saw as gunboat diplomacy.

The announcement by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ignored the strong opposition of Europe and the United States, and signaled the Kremlin's determination to shape its neighbors' destinies even at the risk of closing its doors to the West.

"We are not afraid of anything, including the prospect of a Cold War," President Dmitry Medvedev said hours after announcing the Kremlin's decision and one day after Parliament had supported the recognition.

■ ■ ■

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—In an escalating war of words, President Bush on Tuesday urged Russia to reconsider its "irresponsible decision" to shower independent status on two breakaway Georgian provinces.

Already rebuffed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Bush warned Russia to change course and respect the borders of its Georgian neighbor. "Russia's action only exacerbates tensions and complicates diplomatic negotiations," the president said in a statement from Texas.

■ ■ ■

While the risk of a military clash with the West seemed remote, the lack of high-level public diplomacy between the White House and the Kremlin added to an uneasy sense here at least of an escalating crisis.

Medvedev also promised a Russian military response to a U.S. missile defense system in Europe. Washington says the system would counter threats from Iran and North Korea, but Russia says it is aimed at blunting Russian nuclear capability.

Airliner hijacked from Darfur to Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Hijackers in Sudan's wartorn Darfur region seized a jetliner carrying nearly 100 people, including local Darfur officials, and forced it to land at a World War II-era airfield in the heart of the Sahara Desert in neighboring Libya, officials said.

A Libyan official at the remote Kufra airport said there were 10 hijackers belonging to a Darfur rebel group and were demanding enough fuel for the Beoing 737 to continue to France.

But the rebel group quickly denied any link to the hijacking.

The flight was commandeered soon after taking off from Nyala, capital of southern Darfur, en route to Khartoum, the national capital, said Yusuf Ibrahim, director of Khartoum's airport.

The plane was diverted to Kufra, a desert oasis in southeast Libya close to the Sudanese and Egyptian borders, some 1,000 miles from Tripoli.

The Kufra airport official said the hijackers belonged to the Darfur rebel Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdul-Wahid Nour. They rejected Libyan requests that they release women and children on the flight and allow provisions onto the plane, refusing any negotiations and demanding the refueling, the official said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

11 killed in chemical plant blast in China

BEIJING (AP)—Explosions ripped through a chemical plant Tuesday in southwest China, killing at least 11 people, injuring dozens and forcing the evacuation of thousands of nearby residents, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The first explosion occurred at around 6 a.m. in Yizhou city in Guangxi province, Xinhua said. Eight people were reported missing following the accident and another 57 people injured. The explosions continued until 1 p.m., spreading fire over a nearly 108,000-square-foot (10,000-square-meter) area, Xinhua said, citing an unidentified firefighter in the rescue operation. The government evacuated 11,500 residents in case of further blasts and chemical leaks, Xinhua said. Rescuers at the scene heard several more blasts as thick smoke enveloped the plant, Xinhua said.

American diplomat escapes gun attack in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A U.S. diplomat narrowly escaped an attempt on her life Tuesday when two men with AK-47s jumped in front of her armored vehicle and sprayed it with bullets, staging a brazen attack that raised fears other foreigners could be targeted. The attack—which the driver eluded by jamming the vehicle into reverse and speeding away—came just hours after the collapse of the governing coalition that drove Pervez Musharraf from the presidency as Pakistan grapples with escalating violence by Islamic militants. A late nighttime bombing at a cafe on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital killed seven people and wounded 20, police reported.

Hindu-Christian clashes kill 8 in eastern India

BHUBANESHWAR, India (AP)—Christians clashed with Hindu mobs who attacked churches, and eight people died in the violence in an eastern region known for deadly religious fighting. Police imposed a curfew in the Kandhamal district of Orissa state after overnight attacks by hardline Hindus to avenge the killing of one of their leaders, whose death they blamed on Christian militants. Two of those killed in the violence that began late Monday were burned alive inside thatched huts. Satyabrata Sahoo, a top state official, would not say if the dead were Hindus or Christians. Sahoo said the number of dead could rise.

Malaysian opposition chief wins parliament seat

PERMATANG PAUH, Malaysia (AP) -- Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim won a landslide victory in a special election for a parliament seat Tuesday, strengthening his campaign to topple the government and become the next prime minister despite sodomy charges against him. The official count showed Anwar defeated the governing coalition's candidate for a seat from a semi-rural district in the northern industrial state of Penang. "This is the people's victory," Anwar, 61, said in a victory speech to thousands of supporters. "Permatang Pauh has given a clear signal to the leadership of this country. We demand change. We want freedom. We don't want to live with corruption and oppression," he said.

Police say explosion kills 7 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Police say an explosion on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital has killed at least seven people and wounded 20. The cause of Tuesday night's blast was under investigation. Police said a large crater and other damage indicated a bomb went off. Police official Kamran Adil confirmed the casualties.

Thousands storm Thai premier's compound in protest

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thousands of anti-government demonstrators pushed into the Thai prime minister's office compound on Tuesday and tens of thousands rallied outside in the latest protest aimed at deposing a prime minister they accuse of close ties to his disgraced predecessor. The People's Alliance for Democracy, which is aligned with conservative factions of the monarchy and the military, said the protests and the seizure of a state-run television station by a masked faction of the crowd were a "final showdown" in its efforts to oust the government. Hours later, about 500 riot police forced their way into the compound and clashed briefly with the protesters, witnesses said.

Environment

Better the second time around!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jose Quan, coral monitoring intern at the Division of Environmental Quality, is being towed in the Saipan lagoon; he is recording the type of marine life found.

By JOSE QUAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

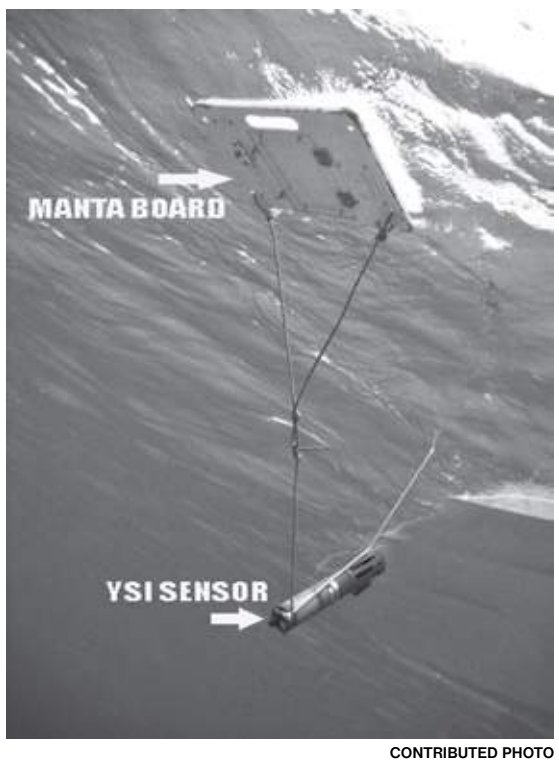
Hello, my name is Jose Quan. I'm a returning intern at the Division of Environmental Quality and my job is to conduct water quality profiling around the CNMI.

My towing sidekick, Andrew Moses, explained to you in a previous article about the same ongoing project. In simple terms, we call it human trolling. Two ropes are attached to the rear of the boat and at the other end of the rope, a sensor and a mantaboard are attached. By holding on to this board, my job is to ensure that the sensor is completely submerged within the water in order to retrieve quality data.

Compared to last summer, this summer was more exciting because tows were being made within depths of 30-40 ft along the cliff sides of Saipan and Tinian. Last summer consisted of tows within the lagoon and those tows were pretty boring. Besides dodging coral heads and avoiding irritating sea grass beads of Enhalus, the variety of fish I witnessed consisted of schools of baby rabbit fish and your occasional mafutis, along with your bright colored porites within the lagoon. Once you jump over the reef, you enter the territory of the "Big Ones."

Depending on where you are towing and how deep it is, the coral and marine life can vary. This summer, I saw large snappers, turtles, a couple of sharks, and my worst fear, a school of barracuda. Without the many dangers in mind, Andrew and I retrieved data from the northwest side of Tinian, Lau Lau Bay, and specific areas throughout the Saipan lagoon.

By creating a water quality map of the CNMI, marine biologists like Peter Houk and John Starmer will be able to analyze where an excessive amount of freshwater is being dumped into the ocean. A lot of this freshwater contains non-point source feces from domesticated and wild animals on Saipan, along with possible leaking septic tanks or illegal dumping of harmful liquids. When polluted freshwater mixes with the ocean water, an excessive amount of nutrients causes the algae in the water to grow at an unbalanced rate. When this happens, the algae grow so fast that it upsets the balance within the habitat, resulting in a decreasing rate of coral growth. Some areas that have this type of effect would be beaches around the Garapan area and the Lau Lau bay area. The excessive polluted rain water could result from the topography of the island, meaning that all the freshwater output begins from Mt. Tapochao running down both sides of the mountain. In Garapan's case, it is the most industrialized area of Saipan, resulting in more pollution.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taken underwater, this photo is of the sensor and mantaboard attached to the boat that retrieves water quality data.

By working as an intern, you can learn a lot. Working at DEQ for the second time, I have learned a tremendous amount of information about the ocean. By doing reef flat surveys, inner and outer lagoon tows, and data entrees, I have learned more about the environment in which we live in and useful skills one would need in the office.

Currently, I am attending Santa Clara University pursuing a business degree in marketing. Along with that, I also plan to minor in graphic design and begin taking some science classes like chemistry and biology. Once I graduate from college, I plan to pursue a marine biology degree elsewhere and then return home, hopefully working for DEQ and helping preserve our beautiful marine environment.

Jose Quan is the coral monitoring intern at the Division of Environmental Quality.

Rota takes pride in Talakhaya watershed revegetation project

Twenty-five Luta Livelihoods volunteers take pride in their successful planting of 20,000 seedlings in the As Onan and Alesna areas of the Talakhaya watershed at an appreciation lunch on Aug. 14, 2008, on Rota. The project was facilitated by DEQ Saipan and Rota, and DLNR Rota. This planting marks the second largest planting event on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group photo of the volunteers on the final day of planting. A volunteer appreciation lunch and award ceremony was held on Aug. 14 at the Northern Marianas College Rota Campus, thanking the Luta Livelihoods Volunteers, the agency staff, and the community members.

Ridge to Reef

The Talakhaya Watershed Revegetation project aims to reduce the nonpoint source pollution from running off steep slopes of the Talakhaya Watershed into the adjacent coral reef ecosystem. Identified as a priority watershed in 2005 in the CNMI Local Action Strategy, revegetation of the badlands began in 2006 to address deforestation and soil loss caused by illegal burning activities.

Talakhaya has low nutrient soil, steep terrain and arid conditions, and therefore requires the careful selection of tolerant plant species along with addition of nutrient matter (via a slow release fertilizer tablet) to the soil prior to attempting to establish plants. Bahia grass (Paspalum notatum), is one of the seedlings that has been successful in stabilizing the soil, and this year, 15,503 seedlings were planted.

Trees planted include 2,250 da'ok trees (Calophyllum inophyllum), 70 pahong (Pandanus dubius), 956 puting (Barringtonia asiatica) and 659 sosugi (Acacia confusa).

A total of 19,438 tree and grass seedlings were planted this year.

In addition, a pilot project was conducted where Bahia grass seeds were broadcast and secured using coconut fiber to create a fire break. The success of this pilot project will be monitored to determine its effectiveness.

Partnerships

To prepare for the yearly planting, DLNR-Rota propagates seedlings in their nursery providing the plants needed for revegetation. DEQ-Rota coordinates volunteer efforts and other logistics.

Prior to the planting, the Office of the Mayor of Rota hosted the Luta Livelihoods Orientation. The volunteers were trained by NRCS-Saipan staff to use GPS units and in soil science and management techniques to reduce the erosion and sedimentation of Rota's coral reefs. The GPS units were provided by CRM-Rota and NCRS-Saipan, and were used to record the seedling locations.

Rota's Channel 5 broadcast the training session for all of Rota to view. Mariana Islands Nature Alliance facilitated the volunteer logistics this year.

Last year, 35 community volunteers planted over 22,000 grass and tree seedlings in the As Onan area. In 2006, student and adult volunteers from the Public School System planted 2,500 seedlings.

For more information about how you can *ayuda* Luta, save our soil save our reef, contact Kathleen Herrmann, Talakhaya Project Coordinator, at 670-664-8513 or kathleenherrmann@deq.gov.mp ***(DEQ)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Luta Livelihoods volunteers prepare the soil for the planting. A total of 25 volunteers planted 19,438 tree and grass seedlings were planted this year.

Life & Style

Anne Hathaway's politics, in her own words

AP

Actress Anne Hathaway, left, arrives at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Monday, Aug. 25, 2008.

DENVER (AP)—Celebrities are getting serious at the Democratic convention.

Sure, there are parties aplenty. But a contingent of Hollywood types under the Creative Coalition banner are gathering for sober-minded luncheons and forums to discuss issues facing the Democratic Party and the country.

At one such event, Danny Strong, an actor and screenwriter who is keeping a video diary of the DNC for The Associated Press, spoke with actress Anne Hathaway about what brought her to Denver.

AP: What issues are you most passionate about?

Hathaway: "That's a good question, and it should be a simple one. But right now I feel like there's so many aspects of our great nation which could use a little bit of help, or a lotta bit of help, that it's hard to pick just one. I think the most important thing is the economy. We need to figure out the housing crisis. We need to build up our middle class again. Right now, the disparity between the uber-rich and the uber-poor, it's worrying and it's not getting better. We need to focus on a way to just get our economy back, to get it back on track.

"Obviously the war is a very important issue to me. We need to get our troops home, and we need to get them home now. My own personal feelings about it is when the world is kind of perfect, and we have those two things—when we're at peace and everybody has a good job—although we should be working on these at the same time, I don't mean to imply otherwise, I'm really a big advocate for health care and of course my heart lies with education."

AP: What inspires you about Obama?

"I was kind of afraid of Obama the first time I saw him. I thought, I've been burned by guys like you before. I've been burned by politicians before that I wanted to believe in and just didn't live up to it. And I was afraid to trust him and I was afraid to have hope when I first kind of became aware of him. It was around the time that he gave his speech on race that I just said 'I can't deny how I feel about you, Barack Obama. I want you to be the president. I want you in the White House.'

"I think that not only can Barack cause change—because that's where his heart lies—as a true American success story, he understands how hard it is. And when he says that he will, when people come to him with problems, he's been there. I just heard the other day, he just paid off his student loans two years ago. And so when people talk about financial issues and the higher cost of education, he really gets it. So not only do I think he has the power, the temperment and the tremendous character that can cause change in the government, I think he's the sort of person that inspires us all to be our best selves.

"He inspires us to be the best Americans we can be. And I think if he's president—when he's president, I should say—we're going to find people changing on the inside. And once we all have hope for the future, I think you're going to find everyone's going to wake up and take control of this amazing moment where there's so many things that need help, and people will all be inspired to help."

AP: Do you think that the entertainment industry has a positive or negative effect on politics?

"I think the entertainment industry has all good intentions when we try to come out. The thing that is unfortunate is that some of us who are maybe a little recognizable, we've got to come out as private citizens and support our country in any way that we can ... .

"There's a media spin on it that we're all out of touch. How could we possibly have an awareness of what real Americans feel and think and need because we just ride around in limos and—I don't know—buy diamonds all day long? That's kind of the perception. But I don't know anyone like that. I'm certainly not like that. I'm a passionate American, and that's what I am first and foremost."

Defense gives closing arguments in wiretap case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal prosecutor claimed Tuesday that taped phone calls between Hollywood private eye Anthony Pellicano and a high-powered lawyer showed they were conducting illegal wiretaps, even though the alleged wiretapped recordings have never been found.

In his closing argument, Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Saunders played a phone conversation for jurors in which Pellicano told attorney Terry Christensen that all the information he would be gathering would be kept between them. Christensen agreed.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Saunders said, "what you just heard was the birth of a conspiracy between two different men with a single desire—to win."

He also called their actions a "shocking display of unmitigated greed and corruption."

The defendants are accused of recording phone conversations of Lisa Bonder Kerkorian, former wife of billionaire investor Kirk Kerkorian, in an effort to disprove her claims that the MGM mogul was the father of her young daughter.

Saunders claimed oblique references by Pellicano to Christensen mentioning statements Lisa Bonder Kerkorian made only in private to friends and associates showed that she was being wiretapped.

While old-fashioned private eyes pounded the pavement for information, Pellicano "sat in his office and listened to wiretaps," Saunders said.

Prosecutors allege Christensen paid Pellicano $25,000 up front and promised $100,000 more if he could identify the true father of the girl. DNA tests later showed movie producer Steve Bing was the biological father

In the defense argument, Christensen's attorney Patricia Glaser told jurors there was no evidence of any wiretaps of Bonder Kerkorian, and said Pellicano was not hired to do any wiretaps

In a review of evidence, she alleged that Pellicano was actually working for Bing and had no loyalty to Chistensen. She said that the recordings of Christensen in his conversations with Pellicano were not wiretapped and that "they contained lies and cons" by Pellicano. Christensen didn't know he was being recorded and never mentioned wiretapping, Glaser said. She stressed that "we only represent Terry Christensen. We have our problems with Mr. Pellicano."

Glaser replayed for jurors excerpts of the taped conversations between the two men but gave them interpretations different from prosecutors'. She also denounced the prosecution for failing to call Bonder Kerkorian as a witness. "If she were to testify, she could have refuted the facts," Glaser said.

She also showed jurors phone records and technical evidence of how wiretaps are placed and said there was no proof that Pellicano did such wiretapping.

Christensen hired Pellicano to find the identity of the girl's biological father, she said, and she played for jurors a recorded conversation in which Pellicano and Christensen parted ways once Bing was identified as the father.

"I've lost all my fees," Pellicano said. "I've lost money on this case. There's nothing left of the mission."

Pellicano, who was convicted of illegal wiretapping and racketeering in a separate case this year, represented himself and was expected to make his own closing argument.

Pink Floyd, Renee Fleming receive 2008 Polar Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf on Tuesday presented the 2008 Polar Music Prize to American soprano Renee Fleming and Pink Floyd band members Nick Mason and Roger Waters for their contributions to popular music and opera.

Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said the British rock band had made "a monumental contribution ... and captured the mood and spirit of a whole generation in their reflections and attitudes."

Fleming was praised for her "sublime, unparalleled voice and unique stylistic versatility" by Peter Gelb, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, who read the award citation.

The audience gave the prize winners a standing ovation when they arrived to receive the awards, each worth $157,700. The ceremony was held in the Stockholm Concert Hall.

Fleming thanked organizers for drawing attention to the importance of culture in everyday life and paid tribute to Swedish opera singers.

A two-time Grammy winner, Fleming, 49, has performed on international stages since her debut more than 20 years ago.

Pink Floyd, founded in the early 1960s, reached critical acclaim and popularity with albums such as "Ummagumma," "The Dark Side of the Moon" and "The Wall."

AP

Roger Waters, left, and Nick Mason, right, of the British group Pink Floyd, receive the Polar Music Prize from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, unseen, at a gala ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008.

Mason, 63, said the band was honored to receive the award and that fellow band members David Gilmour and Richard Wright were sorry they couldn't attend.

Waters, 65, paid tribute to his 96-year old mother. "If there is any humanity and empathy in my work, which I think there is, I would rather owe it to her," he said.

Swedish artists performed the band's songs at the ceremony, ending with a sing-along to the hit "Another Brick in the Wall."

Reinfeldt recalled playing the song—which has the lyric, "we don't need no education"—on his school's loudspeakers when he was 14.

The Polar Music Prize is Sweden's biggest music prize and is usually split between pop artists and classical musicians. It was founded in 1989 by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA. Past winners include Paul McCartney, Isaac Stern, Bruce Springsteen, Pierre Boulez and Quincy Jones.

The 2007 award went to jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins and composer Steve Reich.

Clooney, Pitt arrive in Venice for film festival

VENICE, Italy (AP)—George Clooney hosted a charity event Tuesday night to raise money for victims in Darfur. Clooney, who's in Venice for the premiere Wednesday at the Venice Film Festival of the Coen brothers' film "Burn After Reading," swept past reporters as he arrived for the fundraiser for his Not On Our Watch charity.

The event was expected to raise $2 million, said Manuele Malenotti, the executive director of the Italian clothing company Belstaff, which sponsored the event.

Not On Our Watch has raised more than $7 million to help victims both of the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and the cyclone in Myanmar, according to executive director Alex Wagner.

The charity, which was started last year by Clooney, Brad Pitt and some of their "Ocean's Thirteen" colleagues, uses their celebrity appeal to bring attention to human rights abuses, but it isn't so easy to get even two of the founders together because of filming and family demands, Wagner conceded.

Pitt, who arrived in Venice earlier with sons Maddox and Pax, was expected at the event, but hadn't arrived by the time cocktail hour was over. He also appear in the Coen brothers' film.

"Scheduling is very difficult. Two of them happened to be in Venice at the same time because of the 'Burn After Reading' premiere ... so there was a brainstorming session," Wagner said of the planned joint appearance.

Inside, Clooney was discussing the issues and where the charity puts its money at the fundraising dinner on Venice's Giudecca island, where 200 industry insiders and Italian VIPs were slated to attend, Wagner said.

AP

U.S. actor George Clooney arrives in Venice, Italy on a taxi boat for the 65th Venice Film Festival, Tuesday Aug. 26, 2008.

One recent grant by the group was $500,000 in March to keep helicopters and airplanes flying aid into Darfur region of Sudan—topping off a $1 million donation a year earlier for the same program.

"We sent out a press release one day saying we were on the verge of closing it down and the next day we had $500,000," said Bettina Luescher, a spokeswoman for the World Food Program at U.N. headquarters in New York. "They shine the light on the real emergencies and step up where we really need help." Without that money, Luescher said, the World Food Program had been on the verge of shutting down the air service to Darfur, which brings 3,000 aid workers a month to the stricken region. The U.N. food charity fed 3.3 million people there last month.

The air service is critical given deteriorating security, which makes road convoys vulnerable. Nearly 100 World Food Program food trucks have been hijacked this year.

Clooney has spoken for several years about the crisis in Darfur, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and about 2.5 million people displaced in three years of fighting between African rebels and government troops allied with Arab militia known as the janjaweed.

He went on a U.N. technical mission including Darfur and neighboring Chad in January, sharing his impressions with reporters upon his return to draw attention to the crisis.

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Traitor

Thursday 4:10 7:25

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce

Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When straight arrow FBI agent Roy Clayton heads up the investigation into a dangerous international conspiracy, all clues seem to lead back to former U.S. Special Operations officer, Samir Horn. A mysterious figure with a web of connections to terrorist organizations, Horn has a knack for emerging on the scene just as a major operation goes down. The inter-agency task force looking into the case meets with Carter, a veteran CIA contractor who seemingly has his own agenda and Max Archer, a fellow FBI agent.

★ ★ ★

Death Race

Thursday 4:30 7:20

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson

Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Terminal Island, New York: 2020. Overcrowding in the U.S. penal system has reached a breaking point. Prisons have been turned over to a monolithic Weyland Corporation, which sees jails full of thugs as an opportunity for televised sport. Adrenalized inmates, a global audience hungry for violence and a spectacular, enclosed arena come together to form the 'Death Race', the world's biggest, most brutal sporting event. Five-time NASCAR champion Jensen Ames is a man who has become an expert at survival.

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Thursday 4:05 7:10

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels

Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Thursday 4:15 7:05

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li

Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Tropic Thunder

Thursday 4:20 7:15

Ben Stiller, Jack Black

Comedy • Rated R

Dark Knight

Thursday 4:00 7:00

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger

Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mirrors

Thursday 4:25 7:30

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton

Thriller, Horror • Rated R

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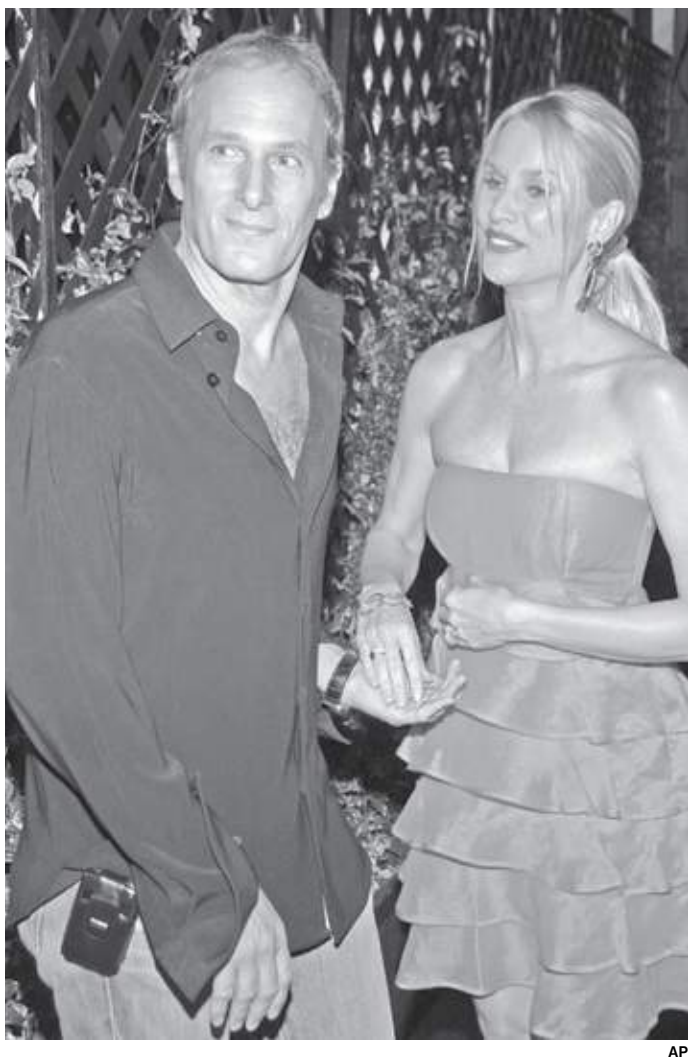
ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Dr. Dre's 20-year-old son found dead in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Dre's 20-year-old son has died, the rapper's publicist said Tuesday. "Dr. Dre is mourning the loss of his son Andre Young Jr.," publicist Lori Earl said in a statement. Young Jr., who was named after his father, was found dead Saturday by his mother at their home in suburban Woodland Hills, county coroner's Lt. John Kades said. An autopsy was performed Monday, but the cause of death wasn't likely to be determined for eight weeks while toxicology tests are done, Kades said.

Nicollette Sheridan, Michael Bolton end engagement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicollette Sheridan and Michael Bolton have ended their engagement. The split was amicable, said Nicole Perna, a publicist for the pair. The 44-year-old actress and 55-year-old singer have been engaged since March 2006. They first started dating in 1992 and spent five years together, Perna said, then rekindled their romance in 2005. Sheridan plays Edie Britt on ABC's "Desperate Housewives." Bolton won Grammy awards in 1989 and 1991 for male pop vocal performance. The couple's split was first reported by People.com.



AP

In this March 6, 2008 file photo, actress Nicollette Sheridan, right, and singer Michael Bolton pose on the press line at the grand opening celebration of Beso, a restaurant owned by actress Eva Longoria in Los Angeles.

Haley Joel Osment to make B'way debut

NEW YORK (AP)—David Mamet's "American Buffalo," a robbery tale set in a Chicago junk shop, has found its third partner in crime—Haley Joel Osment, who will be making his Broadway debut in the production. The 20-year-old Osment, who was an Academy Award nominee for "The Sixth Sense," joins John Leguizamo and Cedric the Entertainer in the revival that opens Nov. 17 at the Belasco Theatre. Preview performances begin Oct. 31. "American Buffalo" will be directed by Robert Falls of Chicago's Goodman Theatre. Among Osment's other movies are "Forrest Gump," "Secondhand Lion" and "A.I." "American Buffalo" is one of two Mamet revivals on Broadway this fall. The other is "Speed-the-Plow," starring Jeremy Piven, Raul Esparza and Elisabeth Moss. It opens Oct. 23 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. Previews start Oct. 3.

Manager: Spears not slated to perform on VMAs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears won't perform on this year's MTV Video Music Awards, according to her manager.

"Contrary to media reports, Britney was never slated to perform on this year's VMAs," Larry Rudolph, Spears' manager at Jive Records, said in a statement. "She's in the middle of recording her next album, which is going amazingly well, and her focus remains on the studio."

Spears' "Gimme More" comeback performance during last year's VMAs was one of the most-talked-about moments of 2007. The tabloid queen is currently appearing in spots promoting this year's ceremony.

In June, MTV Networks Music Group President Van Toffler said the network wasn't ruling out giving viewers another dose of Spears at the VMAs. MTV later confirmed they were in talks to have Spears appear in some capacity. The rebounding pop queen is nominated for video of the year for "Piece of Me."

This VMAs will air live Sept. 7 from Paramount Pictures Studios in Los Angeles. Previously announced award show performers include Kid Rock, Lil Wayne, Pink, Rihanna, Paramore, T.I. and the Jonas Brothers

AP

In this Aug. 28, 2003 file photo, Britney Spears, left, and Madonna kiss during the opening performance of the MTV Video Music Awards at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

Australia assessing visa for Snoop Dogg

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—The immigration department said Wednesday it was conducting a character assessment of Snoop Dogg, including his criminal history, as Australia considers whether to grant the rapper a visa for a concert tour later this year.

A department spokesman said reports the visa had already been granted were false.

He said the rapper, whose birth name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr., applied for a visa in July and the department carried out a preliminary assessment. Snoop Dogg and fellow hip-hop star Ice Cube plan an Australian concert tour in October.

"The department has now decided to do a full assessment of the character of Mr. Broadus, and the department has begun this assessment," the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity as required by the department.

He said Snoop Dogg had been notified of the further assessment.

The spokesman said the rapper has visited Australia three times: in 1998, 2006 and 2007, without incident, though he did overstay his visa by two days on the last visit.

Snoop Dogg withdrew his application for a visa to Australia last year when he failed to pass the character requirements after pleading no contest to gun and drug charges in the United States.

Kara DioGuardi joins 'Idol' judges for NYC tryouts

\NEW YORK (AP)—It was only her first day as an "American Idol" judge, but already Kara DioGuardi seemed part of the dysfunctional family.

DioGuardi, the freshly-installed fourth "Idol" critic, joined Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson in a public show of solidarity Tuesday afternoon as the quartet entered a Chelsea Piers building on Manhattan's west side for a round of season eight auditions.

They walked a red carpet amid a media circus aimed at getting the first photo opportunity of DioGuardi with her new co-workers. Cowell summed up the thinking behind adding the 37-year-old singer-songwriter to the panel.

"It's like, you know, having dinner with three people for seven years, and getting quite bored of each other," Cowell told reporters. "So it's having a fourth person, new opinion, I think it's gonna be interesting."

"I think it's gonna make it sexier," said Jackson, chiming in.

DioGuardi's songs have been recorded by Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani, Celine Dion, Faith Hill, Carrie Underwood and Pink, among others. Her recent Top 40 hits include Stefani's "Rich Girl," Clarkson's "Walk Away" and Dion's "Taking Chances."

Fox announced DioGuardi's new gig Monday morning.

AP

Judges, from left, Simon Cowell, Kara DioGuardi, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson of "American Idol" arrive at a promotional event for the show Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008 in New York.

Marty Stuart to start country music TV show

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Stuart thinks there's room on TV for the style of country music he remembers from "The Porter Wagoner Show," "Flatt & Scruggs" and, of course, "Hee Haw." So Stuart decided to create his own show.

"The Marty Stuart Show" will begin airing Sunday nights come November on cable's RFD-TV.

Each episode will feature music by Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives, as well as his wife, Grand Ole Opry star Connie Smith, and guests. "This show is about authenticity, from the artists who visit us in the studio every week to the people watching at home," said Stuart, a sideman with Lester Flatt and Johnny Cash before embarking on a successful solo career in the '80s. "I want to establish a show that gives a voice and stage to traditional country music."

Stuart will host and produce the 30-minute episodes. Grand Ole Opry announcer Eddie Stubbs will be his sidekick. His show will be part of the prime-time lineup with "Hee Haw" reruns, "Postcards from Nebraska" and "Music & Motors."

Acts of kindness can make our world seem less scary

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: "Missing the Old Days in Arizona City" (May 8), the mother of a small child, wondered how parents can feel safe raising kids in a world that is "crazy and scary." I, too, worry about the state of the world today, but find comfort in my children and in the fact that I am trying to raise them to be among the "good guys."

When I was a brand-new mom, I was in an elevator with two teenage boys. When the door opened, one of the boys stated to get off first. The other boy put his arm in front of his friend and motioned for me to go ahead. I was moved by his simple gesture of thoughtfulness and good manners. I thanked him and asked him to also thank his mother for me, for doing such a wonderful job raising such a polite young man. I promised myself that day that I would raise my children (I now have three) to be like him.

Please tell "Missing the Old Days" there is good everywhere. She just needs to look for it and to always acknowledge polite gestures so her children and others can see that there is still civility in this "scary place" we call home.

MARGIE IN RENO, NEV.

DEAR MARGIE: I like the way you think. As more people respond to each other with kindness, we create a more positive world in which to live, one good deed at a time. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am so tired of people talking about how civilization is falling apart. Human history is filled with senseless acts of violence that I am sure predate the written word. I think that because the media today are able to bring us violence from across the globe, it appears to be more prevalent.

You cannot live your life in fear of what might happen. You can only do your best to prevent bad things from happening to yourself and to others. Stand up and say "That's not right" when you see something "bad" happen. Only through our own actions can we change the world we live in.

PHILLIP IN BATTLE CREEK

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, get discouraged by the negativity portrayed by the media. But I've found that volunteering is a great way to find renewed faith in humanity. Even if it's just an hour or two a month at a shelter or a local organization, it is uplifting to come together with others who are also trying to do good.

WILLING TO HELP IN GRANITE CITY, ILL.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice. My husband and I have a 13-month-old son. Like any loving parent, I want to provide a better world for him and all other children. We make choices in our lifestyle that foster a safe and loving environment. We limit TV, treasure our family time, and protect him from exposure to anything we deem inappropriate for his age.

I want to show my son that even though bad things happen, each of us has the power to help others. Our children learn these important lessons through our example.

Rather than despair about news that often makes me want to cry, I have decided to take action. I want to do everything I possibly can to improve the world my child will inherit and teach him how to take care of it when it's his turn.

A MOTHER AND TEACHER IN
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

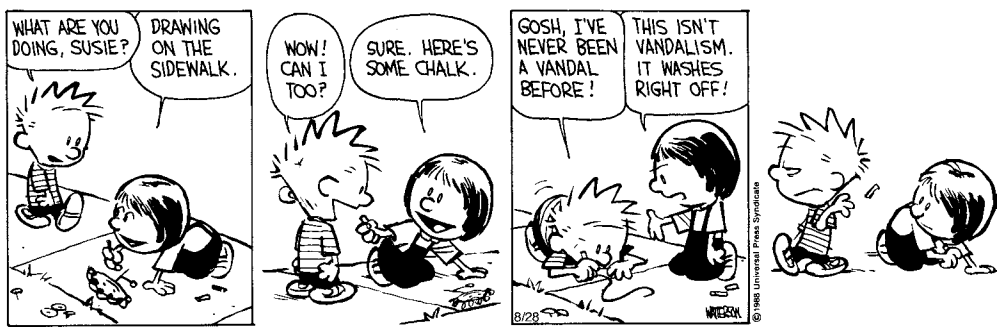
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

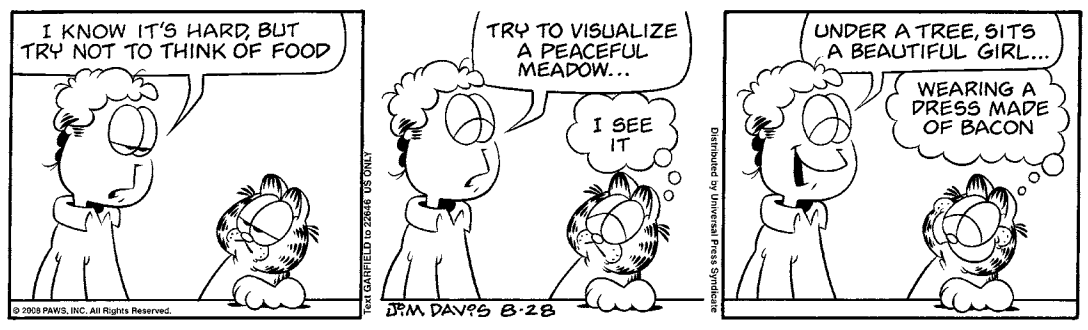
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SUSIE?
DRAWING ON THE SIDEWALK.
WOW! CAN I TOO?
SURE. HERE'S SOME CHALK.
GOSH, I'VE NEVER BEEN A VANDAL BEFORE!
THIS ISN'T VANDALISM. IT WASHES RIGHT OFF!
8/28
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT TRY NOT TO THINK OF FOOD
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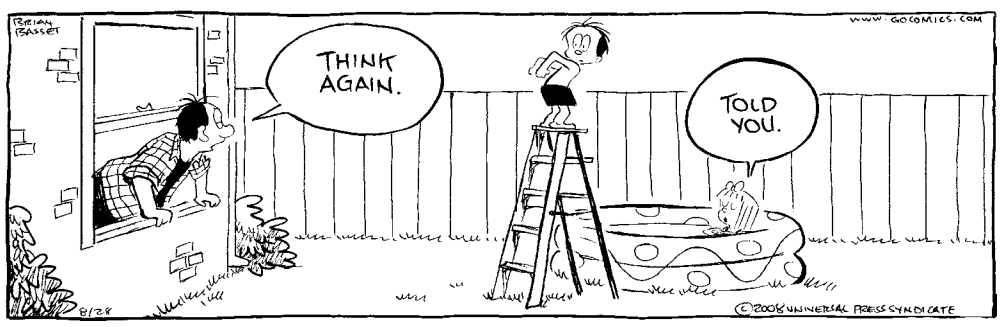
Text GARFIELD to 22646 for US ONLY
TRY TO VISUALIZE A PEACEFUL MEADOW...
I SEE IT
JIM DAVIS 8-28
UNDER A TREE, SITS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL...
WEARING A DRESS MADE OF BACON
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

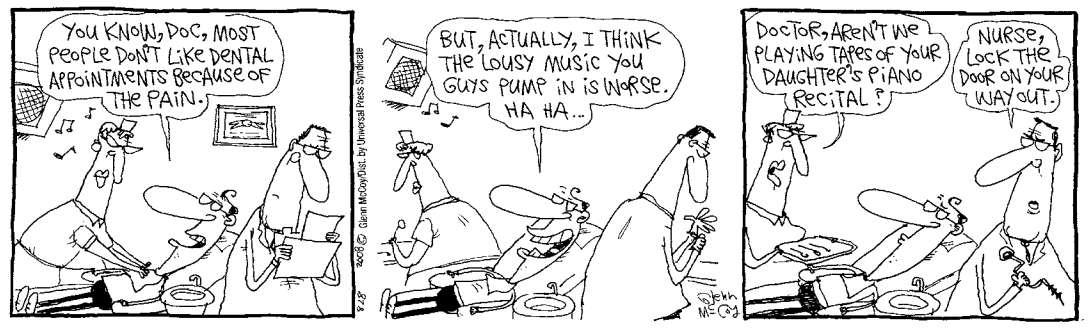
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU KNOW, DOC, MOST PEOPLE DON'T LIKE DENTAL APPOINTMENTS BECAUSE OF THE PAIN.
BUT, ACTUALLY, I THINK THE LOUSY MUSIC YOU GUYS PUMP IN IS WORSE. HA HA...
DOCTOR, AREN'T WE PLAYING TAPES OF YOUR DAUGHTER'S PIANO RECITAL?
NURSE, LOCK THE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT.
9/28
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Unescorted
5 Weekend abbr.
8 Convince
12 Henry VIII's sixth wife
13 — Beta Kappa
14 Employ
15 Out of the storm
16 Operated
17 Omar of "House"
18 Shrimp recipe
20 Harvard rival
22 Sunrise
26 Unembellished
29 Have a bug
30 Have a balance
31 Describe
32 Muppets creator Henson
33 Fervent following
34 Scepter topper
35 Take a chair
36 Rwandan people
37 See 36-Down
40 Cameo stone
41 Balloon fill
45 Diamond corner
47 Altar affirmative
49 Highly rated
50 Satan's forte
51 Greek consonants
52 Use a teaspoon
53 Transaction
54 Understand
55 Fill till full

DOWN
1 Resorts international?
2 Postbath application
3 Vicinity
4 Glitch-causing gnome
5 Piece of parsley
6 "I thought so"
7 Cratchit kid
8 Ledge
9 Obliterated
10 Dadaist Jean
11 "Absolutely"
19 Brooch
21 "You've got mail" biz
23 Part of Hispaniola
24 Puncturing tools
25 Bigfoot's cousin
26 Trudge (on)
27 Old Italian coin
28 Food of the gods
32 Putting a whammy on
33 Pirate's weapon
35 Firmament
36 With 37-Across, Batman
38 Final bell?
39 Spirit
42 Tittle
43 Monad
44 No more than
45 Foundation
46 Rd.
48 Payable

Solution time: 25 mins.

		A	D	O			P	T	A			
	S	N	U	B		C	U	R	I	E		
A	T	O	L	L		A	M	A	N	D	A	
L	A	D	Y	I	N	W	A	I	T	I	N	G
L	Y	E		Q	U	E	S	T		T	I	P
			B	U	D	D			C	O	M	A
	P	A	Y	E	E		S	P	O	R	E	
L	A	T	E			M	A	I	N			
A	C	K		P	E	A	R	L		P	A	W
W	A	I	T	U	N	T	I	L	D	A	R	K
	S	N	A	P	A	T		A	U	N	T	S
		S	P	A	C	E		G	E	E	S	
			S	E	T			E	L	L		

Yesterday's answer 8-28

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48			49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: LeAnn Rimes, 26; Jason Priestley, 39; Shania Twain, 43; Daniel Stern, 51

Happy Birthday: Use your charm and turn a negative into a positive. Love is on the rise and the time to renew your vows or find a new love is fast approaching. A serious look at your past will enable you to do whatever will ensure progress and well-being in the future. You are on a path that can lead to success if you are sensitive to the needs of others. Your numbers are 12, 17, 27, 30, 32, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Challenge yourself and you will realize your true potential. Work will come easy and you should be able to get a lot completed and still have time for fun. Networking will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You have the ideas and the skills to implement them, so don't give in to anyone putting pressure on you to do things his or her way. Focus on yourself, being your best and making yourself known. Make time for a little loving. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Think your way through any emotional situation you face and you will do what's right. Someone may play games with you regarding his or her feelings. Don't make physical changes because you are restless or dissatisfied. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Living in the past or dwelling on your childhood will only keep you firmly planted where you should no longer be. Move forward, meet new people and form new alliances. Don't deny yourself the chance to evolve. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take on a challenge or get involved in an activity that will test your strength and endurance. Don't let your emotions cause you to waste time fretting over someone or something he or she did. Offer affection, not hostility. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your knowledge, contacts and practical applications will be in demand. The more you give, the more powerful your position will become. You can break the ice with your generous heart and by paying for someone you are trying to impress. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): By trying hard, you will buy time and favors from onlookers. An emotional moment with someone you work with may cost you if you believe everything he or she is telling you. Don't overreact or get angry. Concentrate on your success. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't move ahead unless you have everything in place. You can expect someone to interfere with your plans or use emotional tactics to stifle you from being productive. Make last-minute changes to counteract what's happening. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There is opportunity and cash to be made but you must be fair if you want to feel good about your gains. Someone you least expect will blow your cover or force you to own up to something you did. Keep everything aboveboard and you will prosper. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll have choices to make that won't be easy. Use your savvy and charm to control the outcome. Nothing will be gained by shouting but, with a little finesse and a few compliments, you will win. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll face emotional trouble. If you say too much or get yourself involved in a mess, it will cost you financially as well. Put things in perspective and be loving, kind and trusting with others. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Before signing a contract or making a promise, understand what is expected of you. Push for the answers you require to feel comfortable with the prospect being offered. Otherwise, you will be paying emotionally and financially for some time. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are loving, dependable and easy to get along with. You are a free thinker, a hard worker and you finish what you start.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					3			
		4		8	9	2		
	6				4		1	
						4	6	9
	7						8	
5	3	9						
	1		2				3	
		5	8	4		6		
			7					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	8	7	5	4	3	9	2
5	9	3	2	6	8	4	7	1
4	2	7	3	1	9	8	6	5
8	3	4	5	2	7	9	1	6
6	7	5	9	4	1	2	8	3
9	1	2	6	8	3	7	5	4
3	4	1	8	7	6	5	2	9
7	5	6	4	9	2	1	3	8
2	8	9	1	3	5	6	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WORLD EXPOS — **Solution: 8 letters**

S	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	U	T	O	P	I	A	N
A	E	S	N	O	I	L	L	I	V	A	P	K	T	O
X	T	Z	E	O	L	A	G	U	T	R	O	P	T	B
E	E	N	I	D	I	D	E	A	S	R	E	I	R	S
T	C	T	A	L	U	T	S	H	E	R	N	H	A	I
N	N	T	A	P	A	C	I	A	U	O	N	S	C	L
E	A	C	E	R	I	I	A	T	I	A	A	R	T	A
M	D	I	D	C	B	C	C	T	E	N	L	O	I	N
E	N	M	A	E	H	E	I	E	I	P	I	S	O	D
C	E	O	R	G	T	N	L	T	P	O	M	N	N	M
N	T	N	T	I	G	I	O	E	R	S	N	O	S	A
A	T	O	H	O	M	E	S	L	C	A	H	P	C	R
V	A	C	C	A	N	A	D	A	O	A	P	S	I	K
D	R	E	V	U	O	C	N	A	V	G	P	A	S	S
A	R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	E	D	Y	T	I	C

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Yesterday's Answer: Thyroid

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LIVING KNIFE

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Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Opening Date: July 10, 2008 Closing Date: September 4, 2008

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Location Power Generation, Saipan

JVA No. 08-020 Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Civil Engineering)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; Water and Wastewater, Saipan; and Power Division, Saipan

Opening Date: July 25, 2008 Closing Date: September 4, 2008

JVA No. 08-022 Assistant Engineer (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; **Power Generation, Rota**

JVA No. 08-023 Information Technology Analyst/Engineer
Location IT/EDP, Saipan

Opening Date: August 27, 2008 Closing Date: September 18, 2008

JVA No. 08-024 Trades Technician (Mechanical and Operator)
Location Power Generation, Saipan

JVA No. 08-025 Trades Foreperson (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Location Power Generation, Saipan

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Former Blazers Kevin Duckworth dies at 44

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. (AP)—Former Portland Trail Blazers center Kevin Duckworth, a "gentle giant" with a feathery touch from the paint, has died. He was 44.

Duckworth, part of a Trail Blazers goodwill tour, was scheduled to hold a basketball clinic on the Oregon coast when he died Monday night. The Depoe Bay Fire Department said it responded about 10 p.m. to a report of a man who was down and not breathing at Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach, north of Newport on the central coast.

The cause of death was to be determined by a medical examiner but the Lincoln County sheriff's office said there was no indication of foul play.

"Within the world of basketball, within those Trail Blazers teams, he was a jokester," said Phoenix Suns coach Terry Porter, who played with Duckworth. "He was a big loving teddy bear. At times guys got frustrated because he didn't have a mean streak. He was just a great guy. He loved the team atmosphere, loved being a teammate in those successful Blazer teams."

The 7-foot Duckworth averaged 11.8 points and 5.8 rebounds over 11 seasons in the NBA, helping Portland reach the NBA finals in 1990 and 1992. The two-time All-Star also played for San Antonio, Washington, Milwaukee and the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Kevin will be remembered by fans as one of the most popular and recognizable players to ever wear the Blazers uniform, but to people who knew him, he'll be remembered as one of the warmest and biggest-hearted," Trail Blazers president Larry Miller said.

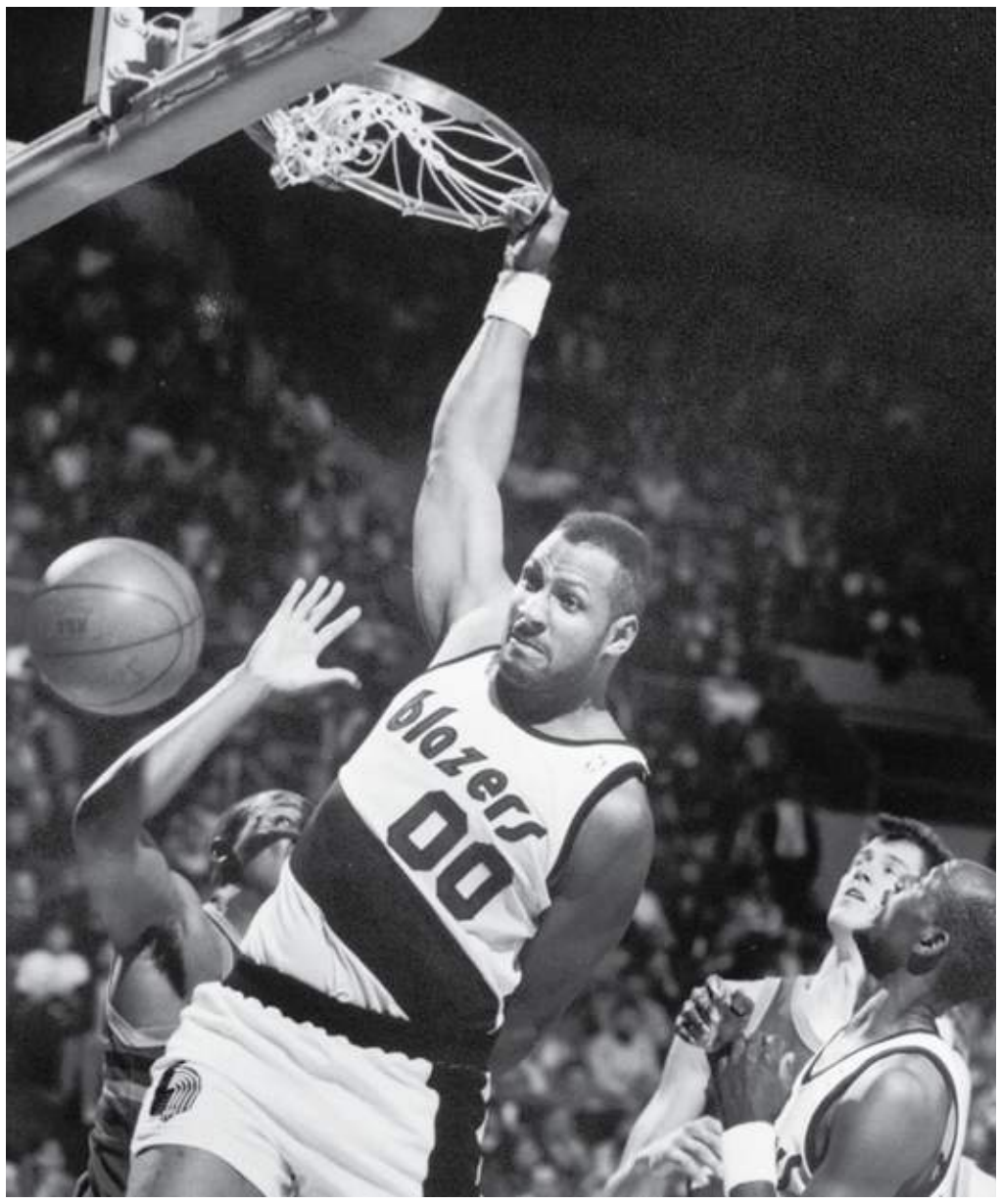
Porter said Duckworth had battled weight problems recently.

"You wake up in the morning and it's your first news of the day, it just kind of hits you," Porter told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "For me, I spent so much time with that young man and had so much success with him. It really hurt. It's almost like losing a brother."

Duckworth grew up in the Chicago area and was drafted by the San Antonio Spurs out of Eastern Illinois University in 1986.

The Spurs traded him that season to the Trail Blazers, where he had his greatest success, playing with Porter, Clyde Drexler, Buck Williams and Jerome Kersey on two Western Conference championship teams.

Duckworth remained in the Portland area after he retired in 1997, doing woodwork, fishing and hunting. He ran a construction company in Northern California for a time, and a restaurant venture in Vancouver, Wash., with former NBA player Kermit Washington went out of business.



AP

Portland Trail Blazer center Kevin Duckworth is seen in a December 23, 1990 photo. Former Portland Trail Blazer center Kevin Duckworth, who lived in Tigard, Or., died Monday, August 25, 2008, in Gleneden Beach, while visiting the Oregon Coast to host a free basketball clinic.

Ivanovic avoids upset, Federer wins at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Ana Ivanovic raised her racket, ready for an easy overhead slam in what was shaping up as an easy match. Then she somehow spiked the ball right into the net from just a few feet away.

Out of whack lately because of an injured right thumb, the world No. 1 was suddenly out of sorts. Ivanovic recovered in time Tuesday to avoid becoming the first top-seeded woman to lose in the first round at the U.S. Open, rallying past Vera Dushevina 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

"I could feel some shots, lack of practice," Ivanovic said.

Serena Williams took a more direct approach. Favored by oddsmakers to win the women's title, she overwhelmed Kateryna Bondarenko with her serve in a 6-1, 6-4 victory.

Wearing bright red, the fourth-seeded Williams was dressed for an afternoon workout - chances are, she'll reveal her more elegant outfits at evening matches. The two-time U.S. Open champion is ready to dominate the Grand Slam event she last won in 2002.

"I don't even remember holding up the trophy," she said. "I didn't even know I won this tournament."

Seventh-seeded Venus Williams advanced, too, beating Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-3. Like her younger sister, she's twice won this Open.

"I've had a chance to play and be healthy, so I'm excited to be here," the elder Williams said.

Roger Federer, aiming for his fifth straight U.S. Open title, eliminated Maximo Gonzalez 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 in the last stadium match of the night. Gonzalez hung with the former world No. 1 player for a while before Federer won 10 straight games, a run spanning all three sets.

Federer eased into the second round as an unfamiliar second seed. After 237 straight weeks at the top of the rankings, Federer is now behind Rafael Nadal for the first time in 4 1/2 years. Not since the 2004 Australian Open had Federer been seeded anything other than No. 1 at a major.

"I'm motivated to do very well here and for the rest of the season," Federer said.

Sixth-seeded Dinara Safina of Russia, No. 9 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, No. 13 Agnes Szavay of Hungary and No. 16 Flavia Pennetta of Italy won. Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany beat No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova.

No. 13 Fernando Verdasco of Spain, No. 14 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia and No. 15 Tommy Robredo of Spain won. Tommy Haas of Germany beat No. 12 Richard Gasquet of France 6-7 (3), 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and Sam Querrey beat No. 22 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

Marat Safin, the 2000 U.S. Open champ, was as volatile as ever, throwing a tantrum after being called for a foot fault during his 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win over Vince Spadea.

"I don't want fight. I don't want to shout," the Russian said later. "I wish I could play normal matches and enjoy tennis sometimes."

Expected to cruise, Ivanovic struggled against a Russian ranked No. 57. Down 3-2 in the third set, the French Open champion found her confidence—and her winning strokes.

The 20-year-old Serbian star had played only two matches since Wimbledon in mid-July while her thumb healed. The injury forced Ivanovic to withdraw from the Olympics before they began and kept her from practicing until last week.

"Happy finally to be without the pain," she said.

The worst start ever for a No. 1 woman at the U.S. Open came in 1967 when Maria Bueno drew a first-round bye and then lost in the second round. The last top-seeded man to lose in the first round at Flushing Meadows was Stefan Edberg in 1990.

Ivanovic was breezing as she took a 4-2 lead in the second set. Ahead 40-15, she seemed on her way to a comfortable win when, at deuce, she charged forward but netted her smash—one of her 40 unforced errors.

After that, her problems really flared.

"I dropped my concentration," she said.

Soon, Ivanovic was tentative on backhands and failed to finish forehands. Gone was her signature fist pump after winning key points. Instead, she spent more and more time looking into her family box during breaks.

By the final set, Ivanovic was moving better, covering the court and pressuring Dushevina into misses. Even so, she made it tough on herself, double-faulting while trying for a match point.

Ivanovic certainly wasn't worn down from her recent hours on the court. Her travel time, however, took its toll—she left Beijing to see her doctor in Australia and then came to New York.

Despite winning her first Grand Slam championship this year, Ivanovic sensed her limited practice session would make it tough to take this title.

"I think at the moment it's a lot to ask for," she said.

Strahan turns down Giants offer, will stay retired

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Michael Strahan is staying retired, although his agent said that the seven-time Pro Bowler seriously considered returning to the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

"He was very close to returning, but the great part about Michael is that he takes his time to think about things and he is very thorough," Tony Agnone said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday night. "You can get excited about coming back and running through the tunnel one more time."

Agnone said that Strahan struggled deciding whether he could give 100 percent mentally.

"In the end, he felt he could not get back to where he was," Agnone said.

The first report of the news was provided by FoxSports.com, which contacted Strahan in Greece where he was vacationing.

"This has been one of the toughest nights of my life," Strahan told FoxSports.com. "But after long deliberation and throwing around a million scenarios in my head for the past day, I think it's just best if I stay retired."

Giants general manager Jerry Reese has asked the 36-year-old Strahan to reconsider his retirement on Monday, just 48 hours after the Super Bowl champions lost Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora for the season to a knee injury in the preseason game against the New York Jets.

Strahan needed just about a day to turn down an offer to return for a 16th season with what could have been an $8 million contract.

"I really love my life now," Strahan said. "It's great having nobody put a finger on me. You really put yourself through an awful lot in this league, more than people realize.

Agnone said money was never an issue.

"We know the parameters of the contract and the Giants would have been generous," Agnone said.

Reese did not seem surprised by the decision.

"We knew it was a long shot, but we owed it to ourselves to exhaust the possibility," Reese said late Tuesday evening. "We appreciate Michael even considering ending his retirement. He has a new career in front of him and we wish him nothing but the best. As we all said when he announced his retirement, Michael was and is a great Giant."

The Giants moved Mathias Kiwanuka from linebacker to defensive end on Monday to take over for Umenyiora, who had successful knee surgery on Tuesday morning and was placed on season-ending injured reserve.

The move will not be a major one for Kiwanuka. He was drafted in the first round in 2006 as a defensive end and started nine games as a rookie. He also lined up as a defensive end in third-down situations last season.

"There is a reason he went in the first round obviously," middle linebacker Antonio Pierce said. "The guy, he is playing behind Strahan and Osi, and then we moved him to linebacker, so obviously he is one of our top players on the team and he is going to show that he is a top defensive end in the league."

Pierce also said the team was ready to move on with or without Strahan, the team's sacks leader who retired in June, four months after earning his first title ring.

"We know we are a confident team and we are a playoff-capable team and we have to go out and perform like it," Pierce said before Strahan announced his decision. "The reason we took the (underdog) role last year was because everybody said it, and we just went with it. We're not thinking like that this year. We do have a chip on our shoulders and it grows more and more when somebody gives us something to feed off of."

What's bugging them now is the belief by some that they don't have the players to get the job done with Umenyiora out.

Pierce never thought that money would be the deciding issue for Strahan.

"The only reason he will come back is if he wants to play," Pierce said.

Obviously, Strahan did not want to play.

Strahan has signed a $2 million deal to work for Fox Sports on its NFL pregame show on Sundays.

Blue Jays down Rays to cut their AL East lead

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—The Toronto Blue Jays sliced Tampa Bay's lead atop the American League East division with a 6-2 win over the Rays on Tuesday.

Consecutive losses have cut Tampa Bay's advantage over Boston in the East to 3-1/2 games.

Toronto starter Roy Halladay beat Tampa Bay for the first time this season after three previous defeats. He gave up only two runs in six innings.

Vernon Wells had two run-scoring singles and added a solo homer in the ninth. He has four homers and nine RBIs in his past three games.

Red Sox 7, Yankees 3

In New York, Boston moved a step closer to squashing the playoff hopes of arch rival New York with a comfortable win.

The Yankees fell six games behind the Red Sox in the wildcard race.

Boston's 42-year-old knuckleballer Tim Wakefield won in his return from a shoulder injury, allowing three runs in five innings in the opener of a three-game series.

White Sox 8, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Chicago inflicted Baltimore's fifth straight loss and built their own lead in the AL Central.

White Sox starter Gavin Floyd pitched eight innings of four-hit ball, striking out four, to take his fourth straight decision.

Nick Swisher hit his 22nd homer of the season for the White Sox, who extended their lead over Minnesota atop the AL Central to 2 games and moved a season-high 20 games over .500. Chicago had a season high-tying seven doubles.

Angels 5, Athletics 1

In Anaheim, California, Los Angeles starter John Lackey came within two outs of his first shutout of the season, steering his side to victory over Oakland.

Lackey struck out five without a walk, losing his shutout bid to a homer in the ninth.

Lackey won his 10th straight decision against AL West teams, driving his team to a 16-game lead in the division. The complete game was his third this season.

Indians 10, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Cleveland notched its ninth straight win, leapfrogging Detroit to third place in the AL Central.

Indians starter Cliff Lee got his AL-leading 19th win, conceding only two runs in 7 2-3 innings. He tied Brandon Webb of Arizona for the major league lead in wins. It's also a career-high; Lee won 18 games in 2005. He has won five straight starts.

Mariners 3, Twins 2

In Seattle, the home team edged faltering Minnesota, which lost its fourth straight.

The Twins slipped two games behind AL Central leader Chicago—its largest deficit in a month—and 2-1/2 games off wildcard holder Boston. Minnesota is on a 14-game road trip due to the Republican Party national convention being in the Twin Cities.

Rangers 2, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Kevin Millwood pitched his second straight complete game as Texas edged Kansas City.

Texas took advantage of some poor defense to score two unearned runs.

The Royals have been outscored 123-54 over the past 19 games to fall a season-worst 20 games below .500.

With the score tied 1-1 in the eighth, an errant throw to first base went down the right-field line and allowed the runner to score from first.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Roy Halladay throws a pitch to Tampa Bay Rays' B.J. Upton in the first inning, during a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Brian Giles and Kevin Kouzmanoff both drove in three runs as San Diego denied Brandon Webb his 20th victory with a win over Arizona.

Webb (19-5) lost in his first bid to become the NL's first 20-game winner since 2005, allowing six runs and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Giles hit a three-run homer and Kouzmanoff added a two-run double in a five-run third inning as Arizona lost its third straight and fourth in five games. Kouzmanoff added an RBI double in the seventh.

Cubs 14, Pirates 9

At Pittsburgh, Geovany Soto drove in seven runs and Chicago overcame Alfonso Soriano's second dropped fly ball in Pittsburgh this season to rally for a victory.

The Cubs won their fourth straight to move 32 games above .500 for the first time since they were 90-58 on Sept. 15, 1984. They trailed 8-7 before scoring seven times in the eighth against three Pirates pitchers. Craig Hansen (0-2) walked in the tying and go-ahead runs while walking three consecutive batters and Soto hit his second bases-loaded double in a span of five innings.

Braves 10, Marlins 9

At Atlanta, Yunel Escobar's single capped Atlanta's four-run ninth against Florida closer Kevin Gregg.

With the bases loaded and one out, Gregor Blanco grounded into what could have been a game-ending double play, but shortstop Hanley Ramirez was unable to pull the ball from his glove as Mark Kotsay slid into second, and Jeff Francoeur scored to make it 9-all.

Escobar then singled into shallow right field against Gregg (6-7), who has eight blown saves in 37 chances.

Brewers 12, Cardinals 0

At St. Louis, Ben Sheets worked six scoreless innings and Ryan Braun was 3-for-5 with a two-run homer as Milwaukee trounced St. Louis.

Prince Fielder had three hits and two RBIs for the Brewers, who have won seven straight over the Cardinals. Craig Counsell doubled twice and had three hits as the Brewers moved 22 games above .500 for the first time since they were 92-70 at the end of the 1992 season.

Nationals 2, Dodgers 1

At Washington, third baseman Ryan Zimmerman started four double plays as Washington beat Los Angeles, which matched its season high with a fifth straight loss.

The Dodgers have lost seven of eight and are 0-5 midway through a 10-game road trip. They have lost a season-high seven straight road games and have fallen two games below .500.

Reds 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Bronson Arroyo pitched Cincinnati's first complete game of the season and Ryan Hanigan hit a solo homer to beat Houston.

Hanigan broke the tie in the eighth with a one-out homer off Geoff Geary that bounced off the facade in left center, just above the yellow line. Second-base umpire Ted Barrett made the home run signal and Houston manager Cecil Cooper came out to talk to him.

Phillies 8, Mets 7, 13 innings

At Philadelphia, Chris Coste's RBI single in the bottom of the 13th capped Philadelphia's comeback from a 7-0 deficit and allowed the Phillies to retake the lead in the NL East.

Fernando Tatis hit a three-run homer and the Mets staked Pedro Martinez to the seven-run lead. But the Phillies chipped away against Martinez and rallied against a New York bullpen that has blown 10 leads in the ninth inning, according to Stats LLC.

Rockies 7, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Chris Iannetta and Garrett Atkins drove in two runs apiece and Jorge De La Rosa pitched six strong innings for Colorado, which has won nine of 11.

De La Rosa (7-7) allowed two runs and five hits to win for the fourth time in his last six decisions.

Brad Hawpe added two hits while Troy Tulowitzki had two RBIs for Colorado.

Baseball to start using instant replay Thursday

NEW YORK (AP)—Replay ball! Umpires will be allowed to check video on home run calls starting Thursday after Major League Baseball, guardian of America's most traditional sport, reversed its decades-long opposition to instant replay.

"Like everything else in life, there are times that you have to make an adjustment," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said following Tuesday's announcement. "My opposition to unlimited instant replay is still very much in play. I really think that the game has prospered for well over a century now doing things the way we did it."

The 74-year-old Selig, who described himself as "old fashioned" and an admirer of baseball's "human element," softened his opposition following a rash of blown calls this year. For now, video will be used only on so-called "boundary calls," such as determining whether fly balls went over the fence, whether potential home runs were fair or foul and whether there was fan interference on potential home runs.

"Any time you try to change something in baseball, it's both emotional and difficult," Selig said. "There's been some concern that, well, if you start here, look what it's going to lead to. Not as long as I'm the commissioner."

Replay will go into use with three series scheduled to open Thursday: Philadelphia at the Chicago Cubs, Minnesota at Oakland and Texas at the Los Angeles Angels. For other games, replays will be available to umpires starting Friday.

Cubs manager Lou Piniella wondered whether a team could challenge a call.

"I'd love to be able to throw a red hankie or a green hankie. Imagine being able to throw something on the field and not be ejected," he said. "I shouldn't say it's not going to work, but this could turn into a little bit of a fiasco initially."

The NFL first used replay to aid officials in 1986, the NHL in 1991 and the NBA in 2002. Even at stuffy old Wimbledon, technology has been used on line calls since 2006. Replay equipment to help determine calls was in place at this year's Little League World Series.

Fan interference has been a big issue in baseball, with almost constant debate since Jeffrey Maier reached over the wall and gave Derek Jeter a home run during the 1996 AL championship series. Many blown calls have occurred at newer ballparks, where fans are closer to the field have the ability to reach over fences.

"In this day and age, where all these ballparks are being built now where people can reach out over the outfield fence and catch balls, fan interference is becoming more and more of an issue," Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine said.

Detroit pitcher Kenny Rogers called the decision "a slap in the face of umpires that have been here for a long time" and said the decision might have been made because Alex Rodriguez lost a home run on a blown call May 21.

"It overshot the mark by far just because, what, in a Yankee game someone didn't get a homer? Please. It's happened thousands of times," Rogers said. "That's part of the game. It's the beauty of the game. Mistakes are made."

Baseball general managers voted 25-5 last November to recommend use the technology, and baseball's lawyers spent recent weeks finalizing agreements with the unions for umpires and for players.

"I find it very strange that, with 30 games to go in the season, that they would start it now. I find that very peculiar," Baltimore Orioles manager Dave Trembley said. "If they wanted it so bad, what took them so long to get it going and why wait until this particular point in time?"

Baseball officials wanted to avoid having a situation in the postseason where fans with access to televisions and viewers at home knew what the correct call was but the umpires on the field did not.

"Some people thought that we ought to wait until the postseason," Selig said. "I'd rather go into the postseason knowing that we've already used it."

Three teams still unbeaten in open 8-ball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams are still undefeated after last week's matches in the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-ball League.

Round 2 D+Q shut out Coral Reef Shark Attack, 4-0, to gain its fourth win in as many games and take the lead in the Agingan Division.

Members of the leading squad are Don Antonio, Ronnie Ringor, Joey Cruz Jr., Boyet Sequioco, and Eric Caisip.

Also winning last week's matches were the PTI Voyagers, who downed defending champion SaipanCell Hustlers, 3-1. The Voyagers are composed of Jojo Talibong, Roman Rodriguez, Jean Cadag, Rolly Villanueva, and Amor Zapata.

The victory put the Voyages in the second spot in the team standings with their 3-1 record.

The Hustlers dropped to a 1-3 record and are ranked fifth among six teams competing for the title in the Agingan Division.

USSP Wat-Ever and Godfather's Rock Steady are tied with identical 2-2 records after splitting their games in Week 4.

In the Obyan Division, Primo's Home Boys and D'Pirates Huwa hold similar 4-0 slates to share the No. 1 spot in the team standings.

The co-leaders posted identical wins in Week 4, blanking USSP Fotten Palau and the Perfect Spotters, respectively.

Primo's Home Boys are composed of Nolan Cultura, Juancho Mendoza, Jorge Lizardo, Mario Diola, and Franz de Luna. Members of D'Pirates are Johhny Dugos, Serge Tibudan, Erick, Primo, and Mario.

Matches between Coral Reef Barracuda and the VFW Warriors ended in a tie, leaving both teams with similar 2-2 records

The Perfect Spotters and USSP Fotten Palau have yet to win in four games.

MARK RABAGO

Boyet Sequioco, seen here in a file photo, and the rest of his teammates in Round 2 D+Q shut out Coral Reef Shark Attack, 4-0, to gain its fourth win in as many games and take the lead in the Agingan Division of the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-ball League.

'Don't Be A Turkey' Walk on Nov. 15

The Saipan Walking Association, Inc., in collaboration with the CNMI Diabetes Coalition, will host the 9th Annual Thanksgiving "Don't Be A Turkey" Walk on Nov. 15 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

The walk traditionally begins at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan and takes participants along the flame tree-, coconut palm-, and ironwood tree-lined route of the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Like in the past, the 9th Annual Thanksgiving "Don't Be A Turkey" Walk will again be sanctioned by IVV and as such SAIWAI and IVV members will receive credit for joining.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

SAIWAI then puts a bookend to 2008 by staging its annual Christmas Walk in the Marianas on Dec. 20. Coinciding with the start of Christmas celebration in the Marianas, the walk starts at the Chamolinian Cultural Village and is again held in partnership with Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway.

For more information about the 9th Annual Thanksgiving "Don't Be A Turkey" Walk and SAIWAI, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. ***(Mark Rabago)***

BANMI tells teams to prepare for 25-under caging

Despite the rolling power outages besetting the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has told interested teams to start preparing for the start of its 25-and-under Basketball League.

BANMI board member and 25-and-under coordinator Abner Venus is calling on all interested teams to prepare for the competition. Entrance fee for the 25-and-under cage league is $800.

While jerseys are required for all teams, Venus said BANMI is willing to compromise as long as teams wear same colored T-shirts and matching shorts for the competition.

He said BANMI is expected to finalize the format for the 25-and-under Basketball League during its next scheduled monthly meeting next month.

For more inquiries about the 25-and-under Basketball League, contact Venus at 483-4906 or fellow coordinator Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

Ulloa's won the 2007 SaipanCell 25-and-under Youth Basketball League crown, beating the Southern Sonics, 2-1, in their best-of-three championship series.

The team clinched the crown after a 90-81 victory in Game 3. Ulloa's took Game 1, 101-86, but Southern Sonics roared back with a 100-94 victory in Game 2. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PTI

From Page 28

went off with 6:43 remaining in the match.

Three other players had scored in double figures for PTI. Kelvin Fitial had made 13, Elmer Esdrelon had drilled 12, and Mike Watanabe had contributed 10.

Bryan Sablan was having a good offensive night for Aguaguat, as he had nailed 34 points, including seven triples.

Jason Sablan had fired 16 points and was the only other Aguaguat player to score in double figures, causing the team to trail by 18-points.

Aguaguat led after the first quarter, 20-17, with Bryan Sablan hitting his shots early and PTI missing its top gunners.

Esdrelon, Fitial, and Mendoza came into the game in the second quarter, and made their presence felt, combining for 26 of PTI's 34 second-period points to put their team in the lead, 51-37.

Aguaguat cut the lead to 10 at the end of the third canto, 60-70, with Jason and Bryan Sablan joining forces to keep their team afloat. Bryan scored 13 in the third, while Jason chipped in six.

But PTI began pulling away anew in the fourth period with Fitial starting the quarter with a triple, Bruce Berline getting several undergoal stabs, and Mendoza hitting two more triples in the next plays before the game was suspended.

The second match between NMC and defending champion Autonomous was also called off.

NMC is battling the pennant with PTI. If NMC sweeps its last three games, it will take the pennant even if PTI wins its last two matches.

AUSSIES

From Page 28

next month and only two other Micronesia teams—Palau and CNMI—were selected to compete in the 19-and-under caging, which will also feature teams from New Caledonia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Tahiti.

Australia will be the team to beat in the Oceania caging with the absence of defending champion New Zealand.

White said New Zealand and Australia are the only teams in Oceania which can match the level of play in FIBA Europe.

The CNMI's first FIBA international referee will be officiating games in the Oceania caging and it will be a great experience to see how other teams from Oceania plays compared to the teams which played in the FIBA European youth caging.

"The type of play in Europe during the tournament was big, physical, and team-oriented. It is big because of the big number of countries represented in FIBA Europe, and the players are tall. It is physical because players are not only big and fast, but are athletic, very fundamentally sound, and know the game very well from many different aspects," said White.

"And it is team-oriented because every player has been introduced to play all of the five positions on the court. They are all taught to shoot, and share the ball in a disciplined and structured program. That is simply the way in which the international style of basketball is played," he added.

Next month in Guam, White, who was the lone referee from Oceania to officiate games in the European tournament, will be meeting with FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith to discuss his next assignment.

For now, he is thankful for the experience of officiating games in FIBA Europe and meeting fellow referees.

"I had the pleasure of meeting and working with all of these people, conversing and dining with them, and really having a great time getting to know them more to build long-lasting relationships," he said.

KONTENDERS

From Page 28

and June Laniyo and J.R. Nogis chipped in six each.

Jerry Mabini paced the G-Rollers II with 16 points, while Raymond Babauta contributed nine. Besides Mabini and Babauta, only two other G-Rollers II players scored more than one field goal against the Kontenders.

The G-Rollers II started strong, taking a 27-18 halftime lead, as Mabini and Babauta traded baskets in the first half.

But the G-Rollers II's fortunes changed in the second half when they began committing turnovers, collapsing against the Kontenders' pressure defense.

The Kontenders capitalized on the G-Rollers' miscues, making easy layups on fastbreak plays.

The Kotenders stole the lead, 36-34, on an uncontested layup from Ogumoro, with 11:30 left in the game. They never relinquished the lead from thereon, as they held the G-Rollers to 14 points in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Kontenders 58 – Ogumoro 16, Pua 8, Dawe 8 Kaipat 8, Nogis 6, Laniyo 6, Dillay 4, Dome'e 2.

G-Rollers II 48 – Mabini 16, R. Babauta 9, E. Manglona 6, Norita 4, Reyes 2, M. Manglona 2, Santos 2, Castro 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-27, 58-48.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Connie Camacho.

LEO

From Page 28

Matsumoto (75); Jhun Calma (78); Mike Cruz (79); March Ace Nono Bostre (80); and May Ace Henry Bautista (81).

April Ace Butch Sigua didn't play in last weekend's golf tourney.

Fil-Taga's officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Guban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	79	51	.608	_
Boston	76	55	.580	3 1/2
New York	70	61	.534	9 1/2
Toronto	68	63	.519	11 1/2
Baltimore	62	70	.470	18

Central Division

Chicago	76	56	.576	_
Minnesota	74	58	.561	2
Cleveland	64	67	.489	11 1/2
Detroit	64	68	.485	12
Kansas City	56	76	.424	20

West Division

Los Angeles	80	51	.611	_
Texas	65	68	.489	16
Oakland	60	72	.455	20 1/2
Seattle	50	82	.379	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	73	59	.553	_
New York	73	60	.549	1/2
Florida	67	65	.508	6
Atlanta	58	74	.439	15
Washington	47	85	.356	26

Central Division

Chicago	82	50	.621	_
Milwaukee	77	55	.583	5
St. Louis	73	60	.549	9 1/2
Houston	66	66	.500	16
Cincinnati	58	74	.439	24
Pittsburgh	57	75	.432	25

West Division

Arizona	68	64	.515	_
Los Angeles	65	67	.492	3
Colorado	63	71	.470	6
San Francisco	58	74	.439	10
San Diego	50	82	.379	18

Yesterday's Games

Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 10, Detroit 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Baltimore 3
Toronto 6, Tampa Bay 2
Texas 2, Kansas City 1
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 1
Seattle 3, Minnesota 2
Chicago Cubs 14, Pittsburgh 9
Philadelphia 8, N.Y. Mets 7, 13 innings
Atlanta 10, Florida 9
Washington 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
Cincinnati 2, Houston 1
Milwaukee 12, St. Louis 0
San Diego 9, Arizona 2
Colorado 7, San Francisco 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	2	0
Kontenders	2	0
G-Rollers I	1	0
San Antonio Sixers	1	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	0	1
Suns	0	1
G-Rollers II	0	2
G-Stars	0	2

6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Qualifier

Natibu's B.J. Sablan watches the ball drop to the plate during their championship game against Shell Marianas last Sunday in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Shell Marianas' Julian Camacho hits a three-run homer in this play. The team beat Natibu in the finals, 8-0.

Mel Sakisat picks up a grounder.

Shell Marianas' Mel Sakisat delivers a pitch.

Above left, Natibu and Shell Marianas players exchange high-fives after the title match.

Above right, Natibu players go in a huddle at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Far left, Shell Marianas' Oliver Secharmidal prepares to hit the ball.

Left, Shell Marianas' Dave Camacho waits for the ball.

Right, Natibu's Ned Norita gets ready for a hit.

Far right, A Natibu batter leans back for a power hit.

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three teams still unbeaten in open 8-ball league

Three teams are still undefeated after last week's matches in the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-ball League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Former Blazers center Kevin Duckworth dies at 44

Former Portland Trail Blazers center Kevin Duckworth, a "gentle giant" with a feathery touch from the paint, has died. He was 44.

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PTI still looking for Lucky 9

PTI's Bruce Berline, left, drives against an Aguaguat player during their game in the PTI caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Win No. 9 seems to be elusive for PTI, as its game against Aguaguat in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League Monday night was suspended due to a power outage at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PTI holds an 8-1 record, sharing the top spot with Northern Marianas College. It attempted to nail win No. 9 after absorbing its first loss at the hands of NMC, 87-82, when it faced Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply last week.

But the power went off with less than four minutes left in the game and with PTI leading at 78-63, preventing the team from securing its ninth win.

PTI suffered the same fate Monday night when power outage forced the suspension of its game against Aguaguat with the former leading, 87-65.

League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the continuation of the Aguaguat-PTI game will be played before the start of the playoffs, which was supposed to begin this week, but would be moved to next month due to the rolling power outages.

Dela Cruz said regular season games maybe extended until the second week of September due to the unpredictable power outages.

Edsel Mendoza was leading PTI against Aguaguat, as he had already scored 22 points. He made PTI's last basket—a triple—when the power

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Leo Ganacias wins August Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

For a change the player with the lowest gross score wound up winning the competition during Fil-Taga Golfers Association August Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Leo Ganacias carded a tourney best 75 gross, which after his six handicap was deducted, still gave him the day's top net score at 69.

The score was a shot better than the 70 registered by Fred Cataluna, whose 10 handicap allowed him to reduce his gross 80 to the second-best net score of the day.

June winner Rey Ferraz actually tied Cataluna with his net 70, but was relegated to third place after losing in a scorecard tiebreak. Ferraz, who has a 21 handicap, came away with a gross of 91.

Rene Batallones and Dan Ganacias complete the Top 5 with identical net scores of 71. Batallones needed 84 strokes to finish the tournament but his score improved with his 13 handicap. Ganacias, meanwhile, hit a 90 gross but his score was whittled down by his 19 handicap.

A total of 15 golfers took part in the August Ace. The rest of the field, with the players, net scores in parenthesis, was as follows: Nestor "Dodong" Siruelo (73); July Ace Ted Malaran (73); James Lin (74); February Ace and Senate President Pete Reyes (75); January Ace Mando Guban (75); John

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'Aussies, Kiwis can match up with Euros'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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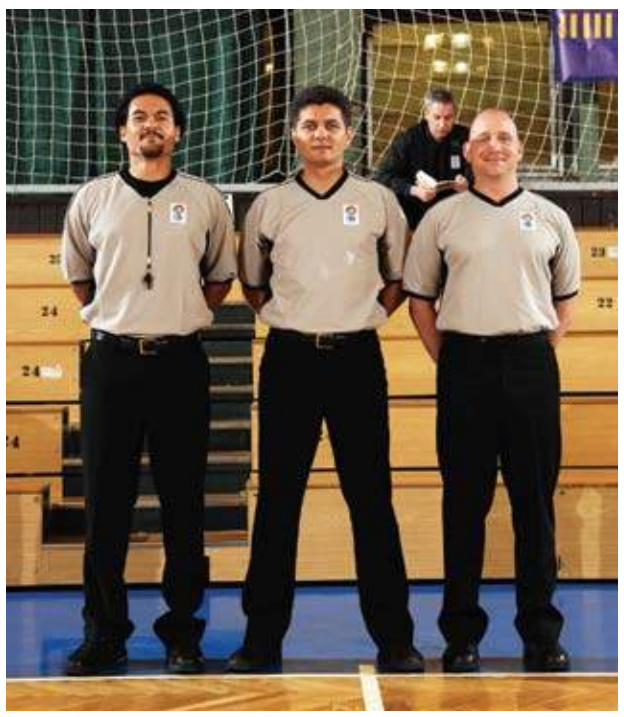
REPORTER

After getting the feel of European basketball, FIBA international referee Gabriel White was able to identify factors separating Micronesia from the rest of the world as far as the development of the sport is concerned.

White said basketball associations in Europe enjoy government and private support, financial and human resources, and many opportunities to compete within and outside their zone, bringing their competitiveness and professionalism in the same level as that of the powerhouse squads in various zones.

"Micronesian teams really lack these certain things, maybe because of our location and environment. We lack the physicality, athleticism, and mentality to even come close to the type of play in Europe and some countries in Oceania," said White, who officiated games in the FIBA Europe Under 20 B-Division Championships in Debrecen, Hungary last month.



VIKTOR REBAY

From left, CNMI's Gabriel White, Ismail Ozgun of Turkey, and Paulus Van Den Heuvel of the Netherlands pose for a group photo before officiating a game in the FIBA Europe Under 20 B-Division Championships in Debrecen, Hungary last month.

The CNMI is part of Micronesia, which is under FIBA Oceania. With the CNMI's location, its very hard for the Commonwealth to compete with other members of the zone outside Micronesia. Only when the competition is within Micronesia that the CNMI gets to send teams to a zone-sanctioned tournament.

Last year, CNMI sent teams to Guam for the Micronesian Basketball Tournament. Only Guam, Palau, and CNMI had official squads to MBT, while FSM was represented by its players who are based in Guam. Kiribati, Nauru, and the Marshall Islands were not able to sent teams due to funding problems.

This year, Guam will be hosting the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament

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Kontenders gain share of lead, beat G-Rollers II

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kontenders gained a share of the lead in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after outclassing the Garapan Rollers II, 58-48, Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory improved the Kontenders' record to 2-0, putting them in a tie for first place with the Southern Sonics.

The loss dropped the G-Rollers II to a 0-2 slate, keeping them at the bottom of the team standings with the G-Stars.

A balanced offense coupled with the G-Rollers II's erratic plays in the second half helped the Konteders record their second straight victory.

Trevor Ogumoro led the Kontenders' attack, firing 16 points and drew support from his teammates.

Soane Pua, Wayne Dawe, and Jester Kaipat added eight apiece

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Kontenders' Trevor Ogumoro, center, goes for a layup against two G-Rollers II defenders during their game in the Rotary caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.